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# Second Committee

**Summary record of the 1st meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 28 September 2016, at 10 a.m.

*Chair*: Mr. Djani ..... (Indonesia)

## Contents

Organization of work

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16-16705 (E)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**Organization of work**

1. **The Chair** said that the list of items allocated to the Committee had been issued as document A/C.2/71/1. He drew attention to document A/C.2/71/L.1, on the organization of work, and reminded delegations of the guidelines adopted by the General Assembly in its decision 65/530. Almost all the facilitators of informal "informal" consultations had already been appointed, and he encouraged them to convene consultations as soon as possible.

2. Time had been set aside for side events linked to the Committee's agenda. The Bureau had proposed three such events which would focus on the role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of information and communications technologies for sustainable development; sustainable strategies for eradicating poverty through youth employment and entrepreneurship; and debt as mandated in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 70/190. One joint meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the Committee would also be held.

3. The target date for the conclusion of the Committee's work was 23 November, the latest date that would allow sufficient time for the Committee's reports to be processed and issued for consideration by the General Assembly before the December recess.

4. **Mr. Plasai** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the deadline for submitting draft proposals should be extended because of the need for many delegations to attend the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito.

5. The Chair said that the comments of the previous speaker would be taken into account. He took it that the Committee wished to approve the organization of work contained in document A/C.2/71/L.1, on the understanding that further adjustments would be made if necessary.

6. *It was so decided.*

7. **The Chair** drew attention to document A/C.2/71/L.1/Add.1, which provided information on the status of documentation.

8. *The Committee took note of document A/C.2/71/L.1/Add.1.*

9. **The Chair** intended to consult with the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council during the current session to exchange ideas and possible actions. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/305 on revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, each Main Committee was requested to discuss its working methods at the beginning of every session. The resolution also invited him, in his capacity as Chair of the Second Committee, to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly on best practices and lessons learned with a view to improving working methods, as appropriate.

*The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.*

United Nations A/C.2/71/SR.2

General Assembly
Seventy-first session

Official Records

Distr.: General
12 October 2016

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## Second Committee

**Summary record of the 2nd meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 3 October 2016, at 10 a.m.

*Chair*: Mr. Djani (Indonesia)

## Contents

Opening statement by the Chair

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Keynote address by Ms. Moyo, Global Economist and Author

General debate

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16-17050 (E)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**Opening statement by the Chair**

1. **The Chair** said that the international community was still grappling with the momentous change brought about by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related commitments undertaken throughout 2015 in Sendai, Addis Ababa and Paris. The 2030 Agenda embodied key principles in line with a new global vision for achieving lasting peace and prosperity. It was universal, applying to all peoples and all countries; it was indivisible, meaning that progress should be reinforcing across all dimensions; and it was inclusive, leaving no one behind and ensuring that results were broad-based, equitable and sustainable across generations. It was important to build on the progress made at the Committee's seventieth session and throughout 2015 in advancing thought and action on the Sustainable Development Goals, which offered a welcome adjustment to past development models.

2. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda was the ultimate test of success and progress was already being made. Member States had already outlined how they were aligning national development plans and policies with the Sustainable Development Goals. To support such efforts, the effectiveness and coordination of United Nations operational activities for development would need to be strengthened, and the Committee would have a key role to play in that regard during the discussion of the draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. There was a need to ensure that, in addition to the sources of finance identified in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, such other resources as official development assistance (ODA), debt relief and debt sustainability, and science technology and innovation were used in support of sustainable development.

3. The Committee's work was essential in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in addressing sustainable development challenges. The Committee must work coherently within the broader international institutional framework, as part of a more effective General Assembly, in tandem with the Economic and Social Council, and including through the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

4. Global economic imbalances and entrenched inequalities were threatening the achievement of sustainable development for all. The situation was compounded by risks and vulnerabilities in the social, political and environmental spheres. Globalization was challenging many closely held assumptions about the role of multilateralism in solving international problems, and approaches to globalization were divided. The 2030 Agenda recognized that the future of all was bound together, and that working under agreed principles, each actor, including Governments and stakeholders from the private sector and civil society, had something unique to offer to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee must build on the recognition of that interdependence, ensuring a consensus-based, integrated approach that would generate the best results in implementation. He trusted that he could count on the collaboration and constructive engagement of participants at the current session with a view to fulfilling the collective commitment to poverty eradication and sustainable development.

**Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs**

5. **Mr. Wu** Hongbo (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the current meeting coincided with the launch of the World Economic and Social Survey 2016, which would advance understanding of the many links between climate and development, and identify key challenges to implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

6. Turning to the global economic backdrop, he said that world economic growth remained subdued and was expected to improve only modestly over the next two years. Low levels of investment and slow productivity growth were likely to undermine the longer-term potential of the global economy. In addition, commodity price decline had adversely affected the least developed countries where average gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2015 had slowed to a decade low of 4 per cent. Accordingly, the growth of those economies over the next few years was likely to remain well below the 7 per cent specified in target 8.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Appropriate, effective, timely and coordinated policy measures at the national, regional and global levels

were required to revive global growth and create an enabling environment to deliver on all the Goals.

7. The discourse on globalization and interdependence provided a backdrop to the performance of the world economy. Although it was commonly agreed that globalization, if properly managed, could be a force for a more prosperous and secure future, the mood towards globalization and interdependence was changing in many countries. The role of multilateralism in managing global public goods and mediating global political and economic relations was being questioned. Some observers feared a retreat to isolationism and protectionism, at a time when greater international cooperation and a strengthened global partnership for development were required. It was encouraging that many high-level speakers at the general debate of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly and the segment to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration of the Right to Development had recognized that any reversal in multilateral cooperation and globalization would seriously undermine the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The overriding theme of the recent summit of the Group of 20 in Hangzhou had concerned delivering on the 2030 Agenda. Such issues as concern about economic growth, rejection of protectionism, effective policy cooperation and coordination to help mitigate the negative spillover effects of domestic policies, the need to ensure broad-based opportunities, and better economic coordination and governance, had featured prominently at the summit.

8. During the current year, all attention should focus on implementation of the 2030 Agenda; actions of all partners at the multilateral, bilateral and regional levels must be complementary. The United Nations system as a whole would play a crucial role in building inclusive and prosperous societies and a healthy planet. The experience gained in each cycle of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development should serve to promote higher levels of delivery on all the Sustainable Development Goals. Countries should continue to present their voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum.

9. He drew attention to steps taken to advance the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, such as the first Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, held in April 2016, which had resulted in a concise and forward-looking outcome document, and the successful holding of the first Global Infrastructure Forum and the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals.

10. Noting that the Committee would be reviewing progress in the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), he said that poverty eradication was vital to achieve the social dimension of sustainable development. Macroeconomic, trade, investment, financial and environmental policies must work in tandem with social policies in order to eradicate poverty and inequality in all their forms. Although the level of extreme poverty had dropped in all regions, one in eight people still lived on less than $1.90 a day. The World Economic and Social Survey 2016 had shown that climate change and inequalities were locked in a vicious cycle, with the poor, vulnerable and marginalized at greatest risk. The best climate adaptation policies were those that simultaneously addressed immediate vulnerabilities and structural inequalities.

11. Highlighting the importance of coherent and well-integrated policies and strategies across a wide range of complex areas, he said that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs was developing modelling tools to assess scenarios for sustainable development policies and strategies that were available through a web-based portal launched early that year. In order to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, careful attention would have to be given to a number of other institutional and capacity questions, including information and communication technologies (ICT), and the need for effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. While an increasing number of countries were putting in place institutional arrangements to ensure that the 2030 Agenda was implemented in a coherent and integrated manner, greater engagement with parliaments and local authorities was required, as were high-quality, accessible and timely data. The United Nations was committed to assisting countries in building national statistical capacities; a new $10 million Development Account project would support the strengthening of national statistical systems.

12. Turning to key items before the Committee during the current session, he said that the time had come for

the Committee to give concrete guidance to the United Nations development system through a strategic and outcome-oriented resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. Although the text might not be able to cover some major areas warranting change, it could lay the foundations for the changes to be steered by the Secretary-General the following year. The Committee should also provide clear guidance for the next General Assembly dialogue on migration and development.

13. In its efforts to deliver as one, the United Nations development system had proven its ability to adjust. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs would continue to collaborate with other development partners and stakeholders in civil society, the private sector and academia to support delivery of the 2030 Agenda.

**Keynote address by Ms. Moyo, Global Economist and Author**

14. **Ms. Moyo** (Global Economist and Author), addressing the topic: "One World, One Vision: Tackling Global Imbalances to Achieve the 2030 Agenda", said that a growth rate of 7 per cent per annum was required to double per capita income in one generation. However, the international economy was experiencing extremely low growth, and the International Monetary Fund was predicting that the rates of growth enjoyed before 2007 were unlikely to ever be experienced again. The world's largest emerging market economies were either growing at a rate of 1 to 2 per cent per annum or even contracting, hampering the ability to improve living standards and relieve poverty. Geopolitical and health risks were exacerbating the situation. It was estimated that over 65 countries would experience high levels of social unrest in the coming years and that some 80 per cent of the world's population could be living in fragile States. Antimicrobial resistance was also on the rise.

15. The main factors making matters much more complicated than in the past included technology, which had enhanced communication but was potentially creating a jobless underclass, particularly among the younger population. The rapidly increasing population, which was expected to grow from around the current level of 8 billion to 11 billion by 2100, coupled with an underinvestment in quality education and challenges associated with ageing populations, must also be addressed as a matter of priority.

16. Natural resource scarcity was another important issue that deserved attention: imbalances between demand-side pressures, associated with rising populations and increasing wealth, and supply-side constraints left States at risk of scarcity and conflict.

17. Although income inequality had narrowed between States, it was increasing within States and should be addressed. Furthermore, with global debt estimated to be as high as $240 trillion against a global GDP of $60 trillion, debt needed to be properly managed to ensure that it did not constitute an obstacle to long-term economic growth.

18. Further consideration should also be given to the factors causing productivity declines in almost every sector in many countries in recent years, particularly as productivity, which was one of three key drivers of economic growth, would need to increase at quite a rapid rate if economic growth was to be achieved.

19. Public policy response was another concern. At a time when many countries were accepting that democracy and market capitalism were essential for sustained economic growth, there was a reversal of opinion, particularly among developed countries, regarding the key tenets of globalization, namely trade, cross-border capital flows to emerging markets, free movement of people, and smaller Governments with larger private sector economic involvement.

20. In order to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda, create economic growth on a sustained basis and improve living standards, it was imperative to re-evaluate the political and economic models being followed, for example by reconsidering how growth was measured and the extent of interaction with non-State actors such as philanthropists.

21. **Mr. Abebe** (Ethiopia) said that, notwithstanding the challenges ahead, it was important to remember that progress had been made. Very encouraging economic growth had resulted in poverty eradication in some countries, including in Africa. He questioned neoliberal policies that had focused only on financial aspects of the global economy, and stressed that people, not finance, must be at the centre of any development model.

22. **Mr. Webson** (Antigua and Barbuda) said that de-risking constituted a stumbling block for a number of countries embracing globalization. Such practices, including in the remittance market, had a major impact on trade and a detrimental effect on growth and development of countries, many of which had worked hard to meet internationally recognized financial standards. Noting that philanthropy was viewed as the third sector in many countries, he asked whether engagement with philanthropists could be a useful tool in helping Governments to meet challenges that they would otherwise be unable to meet.

23. **Ms. Moyo** (Global Economist and Author) said that globalization had been a catalyst for the tremendous progress that had been achieved before the financial crisis, not only in Africa, but across the emerging world. The shift away from globalization towards increased protectionism would make economic success more difficult to achieve. Although neoliberal policies had been implemented, a neoliberal agenda had never really been implemented fully; she drew attention in that regard to the trade agenda and subsidies placed on agricultural goods, including by the European Union, that were excluding commodity producers in emerging markets. The financial sector had become a very large proportion of the economy for a number of countries and some Governments had become heavily reliant on the banking system for the provision of public policy and social financing. However, an aggressive backlash against the capital system towards a stringent regulatory environment for the financial systems that were supposed to drive investment would have significant consequences for economic growth.

24. Regional integration would help smaller countries to create effective communities and compete in a global trading environment characterized by an increasing number of trade agreements. Integration, including at the fiscal, monetary and political levels, rather than superficial integration, was conducive to economic growth. While engagement with non-State actors would be useful to tackle global challenges, further consideration should be given to ensuring that, when interacting with philanthropists, Governments were not able to abdicate their public policy role and could still be held accountable.

25. **Mr. Parenti** (Observer for the European Union) said that the European Union, which considered trade as one of the best means of fighting the economic crisis, was not on a path towards greater protectionism and was pursuing a bilateral agenda with developed and developing countries. It granted duty-free and quota-free access under its generalized scheme of preferences to all least developed countries and was the largest trading partner of several least developed and developing countries.

26. **Ms. Moyo** (Global Economist and Author) said that it was understandable why many countries would choose to support their local farmers rather than rely on imports. The international community was aware of the current challenges facing the European Union and was looking to the European Union to provide leadership in resisting protectionist tendencies.

**General debate**

27. **Mr. Plaisi** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Committee's work during the current session was crucial in establishing a robust framework and effective tools for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It must target the overarching objective of eradicating poverty in all its forms and pursue the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced, coordinated and integrated manner, building upon the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The New Urban Agenda to be endorsed at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Agenda (Habitat III) would also help to pave the way towards sustainable development.

28. National implementation, including through home-grown approaches taking into account national circumstances and priorities, was key to the successful implementation of the ambitious, universal and transformative 2030 Agenda. In order to leave no one behind, it was important to address the diverse needs and challenges faced by countries in special situations, particularly African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States; and also the specific challenges faced by middle-income countries, countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and countries and peoples under foreign occupation.

29. Noting the importance of effective means of implementation, he said that ODA would remain an important input in the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. Developing countries should also be given assistance with respect to long-term debt sustainability and financial inclusion. If economic growth was to contribute positively to poverty reduction, macroeconomic and social policies should focus more on job creation and social inclusion. Further investment in such areas as infrastructure, interconnectivity, agricultural development, quality health-care services and education, was also required. The agreed conclusions and recommendations of the inaugural forum on financing for development follow-up had failed to address obstacles and challenges to the implementation of financing for development outcomes and to provide policy recommendations for action, particularly concerning support from developed to developing countries. The Group therefore called for the further strengthening of the forum.

30. International trade was an engine for inclusive economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development. Accordingly, a fair, balanced, open, inclusive, non-discriminatory, rules-based and predictable multilateral trading system should be strengthened. All forms of coercive economic measures against developing countries must be eliminated immediately. Global economic governance must also be improved by increasing the representation and voice of developing countries and ensuring that those countries participated fully in global supply and value chains.

31. A revitalized global partnership was necessary to implement the 2030 Agenda at all levels, and the Group stood ready to work with development partners to advance development cooperation. South-South and triangular cooperation were complementary to North-South cooperation, which remained at the heart of the global partnership for sustainable development.

32. The Group welcomed the Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted at the Hangzhou Summit of the Group of 20 and urged continued engagement within that framework.

33. Climate change was one of the greatest challenges facing humanity and undermined the ability to achieve sustainable development. The Group hoped that the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change would enter into force by the end of the year. It also hoped that the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance would be strengthened, while maintaining full respect for the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

34. Efforts should be made to address the challenges of forced displacement and irregular migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner, while ensuring full respect for the human rights of those concerned, regardless of their status.

35. The draft resolution concerning the quadrennial comprehensive policy review must give long-term strategic guidance for the United Nations development system vis-à-vis the 2030 Agenda. The effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of United Nations operational activities for development must be strengthened, and the system-wide policy orientation for development cooperation must provide an appropriate response to diverse needs and constraints, notably of developing countries.

36. **Ms. Yparraguirre** (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that she was pleased to announce the adoption at the eighth ASEAN-United Nations Summit, held on 7 September 2016 in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, of the ASEAN-United Nations plan of action for 2016-2020 to implement the Joint Declaration on the Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations. The plan of action focused on achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and on achieving the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and its blueprints. It contained a number of elements, including the strengthening of coordination between the two development frameworks; the exchange of best monitoring and reporting practices; the exploration of new partnerships to harness the private sector's resources; the enhancement of cooperation to strengthen the ASEAN statistical system; and support for the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2020.

37. At a special session of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting focusing on sustainable development, convened in September 2016 in New York, ministers had recognized the need for a holistic approach in implementing the 2030 Agenda in order to facilitate the effective contributing role of ASEAN to sustainable development efforts. They had agreed on the importance

of identifying priority areas where complementarities could be enhanced and had noted the utility of developing a roadmap to guide such efforts, which contained a clear timeline for identification and implementation of activities, as well as monitoring and evaluation. The ministers had also recognized the need for a global partnership, particularly in mobilizing means of implementation, in order to attain the 2030 Agenda. They had agreed to enhance regional cooperation in science and technology development and capacity-building, including with respect to strengthening statistical capacity, and had also highlighted the importance of identifying best implementation practices that could be replicated in other countries.

38. **Mr. Sareer** (Maldives), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), recalled that small island developing States, which faced many challenges because of factors such as their remote locations, distance to markets and diseconomies of scale, had been recognized as a special case for sustainable development. Climate change remained one of the greatest threats to the survival of many small island developing States, with extreme weather events causing debilitating damage to infrastructure and reversing development gains.

39. While every effort should be made to implement the Paris Agreement, there should also be a focus on boosting implementation capacity, particularly in developing countries. International financial institutions should take into account the specific challenges and vulnerabilities faced by small island developing States, including the economic impact of climate change. Criteria other than GDP should be taken into account when determining eligibility for financing opportunities, and small island developing States should participate in decision-making and norm setting processes relevant to them.

40. Oceans and seas afforded a livelihood, were a significant part of cultural heritage, and offered substantial biodiversity for the global community. AOSIS therefore looked forward to the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, to be held in June 2017.

41. Small island developing States continued to call for the necessary linkages among and within the SIDS Accelerated Modalities for Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Committee's work. They recalled the Partnership Framework established through General Assembly resolution 70/202 to follow up on the existing partnerships and looked forward to the evaluation of the findings of the comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States. Means of implementation as well as the follow-up and review constituted a top priority in facilitating the achievement of specific commitments within the Samoa Pathway. AOSIS looked to United Nations entities and development partners for assistance in that regard.

42. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group least developed countries had enormous potential to further global economic growth and prosperity. However of Least Developed Countries, said that the, the multiple, long-standing structural challenges that continued to obstruct growth, including stagnant trade and investment flows, diminishing productivity growth and poverty, hunger and malnutrition, were being compounded by new and emerging challenges, such as climate change, increased incidence of natural disasters and public health emergencies and conflict. Greater recognition should be given to the importance of structural transformation in those countries, and particular attention given to those least developed countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, those experiencing political instability or those unable to deliver basic State services. It was reassuring to note that the recently adopted global agendas and the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 acknowledged that the least developed countries deserved special attention and underlined the importance of strong synergy in implementation at all levels.

43. Noting that the onus of development lay primarily with the least developed countries themselves, he said that significant progress had been made in achieving the objectives, goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action and MDGs, and some least developed countries had already begun to prepare for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The international community must, however, deliver on its commitments to provide support. Serious efforts must be made to

enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development in least developed countries, focusing in particular on poverty eradication, inclusive growth and social protection. Participatory, cooperative and enabling environments should be created at all levels with increasing South-South cooperation complementing North-South cooperation.

44. The Group looked forward to the speedy ratification of the Paris Agreement, which called for specific support for the most vulnerable least developed countries. Increased efforts were required to mobilize adequate resources for implementation, in addition to the funds provided through ODA. The Group called on development partners to achieve the goal of mobilizing $100 billion per year by 2020 under the Green Climate Fund. It also called for the establishment and operationalization of a crisis mitigation and resilience-building mechanism, and noted the guidance in that regard provided in the Political Declaration adopted at the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020.

45. It was a matter of concern that the share of least developed countries in global trade was decreasing. The lack of progress on many issues under the Doha Development Agenda was preventing the least developed countries from accessing the development benefits of a fair and equitable trading system. At least a 50 per cent share of Aid-for-Trade initiatives should be given to the least developed countries, and the provision of duty-free and quota-free market access for all products would help the least developed countries to double their global share of exports by 2020. Measures should also be undertaken to extend specific preferences to enhance the participation of the least developed countries in the services trade.

46. ODA remained the largest source of external financing for the development of the least developed countries. Development partners should allocate at least 50 per cent of ODA to least developed countries, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The correct balance must be struck in allocating ODA among the various sectors, with a particular focus on productive sectors.

47. While welcoming the progress towards the establishment of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, he said that least developed countries required increased investment in such fields as infrastructure, energy, agriculture, ICT, and youth and women. Greater foreign direct investment would constitute a means to address productive capacity-building and full and productive employment creation. Reinvigorated discussions were also needed on the implementation of investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries.

48. Noting that migration was an enabler of development and recognizing the economic contribution of migrant remittances, the Group strongly encouraged partner countries to take action on migration along the lines provided for in the 2030 Agenda. It also considered that the resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should serve to strengthen the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of the United Nations operational activities for development to support the least developed countries.

49. **Mr. Webson** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that efforts should be made during the current session to build on the momentum generated through the adoption in recent years of a number of historic agreements. CARICOM, which supported actions to facilitate the swift implementation of such agreements, was looking forward to the final adoption of the New Urban Agenda at Habitat III.

50. Although Caribbean countries had experienced some improvement in certain economic sectors, growth remained sluggish. Challenges such as unemployment and external debt together with open economies, made the Caribbean region one of the most vulnerable in the world. The global financial and economic architecture required fundamental reform to ensure long-term stability and promote development. Although CARICOM acknowledged the efforts of self-appointed interest groups to address global financial stability, such groups did not necessarily include the voice of small and developing States, which must be heard in discussions on financial governance. The United Nations, which was the only forum where small, vulnerable countries could make a tangible contribution to global discourse on issues of concern to them, must therefore be accorded a deepened role in international economic discussions.

51. The Caribbean was one of the most indebted regions in the world. Without access to concessionary funding as a result of their middle-income classification, many Caribbean countries had been forced to increase their debt burdens. A number were experiencing a debt-to-GDP ratio of over 60 per cent and, in a few cases, that ratio was even more than 100 per cent. The problem was compounded by the region's exposure to natural disasters estimated to cost more than $2 billion per annum.

52. The latest challenge facing CARICOM countries was the withdrawal of correspondent banking relationships, which threatened to cut off countries from the global trading system, weaken their economies and increase levels of poverty. Such de-risking practices were pushing countries even further into debt. CARICOM leaders would shortly be convening a high-level conference on de-risking in Antigua and Barbuda and called on the United Nations to help in identifying a solution to the problem.

53. Financing for development was the cornerstone for the successful achievement of internationally agreed outcomes, and CARICOM countries called for constructive engagement at the highest level in terms of follow up and review. Important areas for follow-up included the Global Infrastructure Forum, the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, enhancing international tax cooperation, increasing support for debt sustainability, and formulating methodologies that took into consideration the complex and diverse realities of middle-income countries.

54. **Ms. Moses** (Nauru), speaking on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States, said that the work of the Committee, including through the annual resolution on follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the consideration of the initial findings of the Joint Inspection Unit on United Nations system support for small island developing States, was critical in addressing the special needs and vulnerabilities of those countries. The Committee should focus not only on building individual capacity but also on strengthening national institutional capacities in order to create meaningful gains. It was also critical to ensure that the Committee's work supported the creation of linkages between the 2030 Agenda and the Samoa Pathway.

55. The Pacific small island developing States looked forward to constructive discussion on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review with a view to developing the necessary architecture for the United Nations development system.

56. The Pacific small island developing States continued to call for an elevated response and to climate change — a threat multiplier and an obstacle to sustainable development. They were keenly aware of the negative impact of human activity on the oceans and looked forward to the convening of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 in June 2017.

57. **Mr. Parenti** (Observer for the European Union), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that in order to remain relevant, the Committee must embrace the highly ambitious sustainable development agenda in form and substance, capturing fully the integrated nature of the new paradigm in individual resolutions. The relevant action and changes were not, however, reflected in the Committee's agenda. While it was deeply regrettable that the process of revitalizing the Committee's work had not yielded the improvements necessary, the European Union remained keen to engage in good faith and with an open mind to make the Second Committee fit for purpose and a constructive and credible forum in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

58. In order to function more efficiently, the Committee should avoid duplication of negotiations with other United Nations forums and hold early consultations on draft resolutions, as had been the case with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. It was important to respect the deadlines set by the Bureau to ensure full and informed participation of all Member States and adequate space for consultations. The European Union would request late submissions that did not allow sufficient time for consultations to be deferred to the next session.

59. The draft resolution concerning the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, to which the European Union attached high priority, offered a critical opportunity to make the United Nations development system as a whole able to act in the more integrated, coherent, effective and efficient manner required to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. While important input, such as the Economic and Social

Council dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the development system and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/71/292) and his recommendations (A/71/292/Rev.1) required further consideration, the European Union cautioned against making the draft resolution overly prescriptive and detailed. The text should strike the right balance in underlining the strategic nature of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and providing clear and implementable mandates for the work of the development system.

60. Turning to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, he said that the stakes were particularly high for the least developed countries. The Political Declaration adopted at the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 built on the major breakthroughs of the 2030 Agenda and provided the least developed countries with a robust roadmap for the coming years. Cross-cutting issues, such as the empowerment and human rights of women and girls, were essential elements for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

61. With regard to the environment, the European Union welcomed the large number of resolutions adopted at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the commitment of that Assembly to contribute to the effective implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. The European Union and its member States had long been committed to international efforts to tackle climate change and were now ready to ratify the landmark Paris Agreement. They urged other countries to do likewise to ensure universal ratification. The empowerment of local actors was crucial not only to fight climate change but also to implement the New Urban Agenda, which would be adopted at Habitat III and should be followed up in line with the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations system should act as one in supporting proper implementation.

62. Countries had a shared responsibility to address the challenge of migration as a global issue. One way of ensuring that migration was safe, legal, voluntary and well managed was to address the root causes, including by implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in their entirety.

63. If global economic recovery was to become stronger, economic growth would need to be inclusive and sustainable and its benefits must be shared more broadly within and among countries.

64. **Mr. Chauhan** (India) said that his country, which would be presenting its voluntary national review in 2017, had integrated the Sustainable Development Goal framework into its national development strategies and allocated one day during each session of parliament to discussing progress on the Goals. The commitment of developed countries to resource mobilization, capacity-building and technical assistance, and the role of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism were critical.

65. Noting that some 800 million people still lived in extreme poverty, he said that the Second Committee, through its discussion of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, could chart the course for the United Nations development system to achieve the 2030 Agenda with an unrelenting focus on poverty eradication. Although India agreed that additional financing for any other purpose could not come at the expense of development funding, it was concerned that attempts to divert resources from development programmes could have a detrimental effect on developing countries.

66. India welcomed the New Urban Agenda to be adopted at Habitat III, which it trusted would set a new global strategy for sustainable urbanization.

67. The previous day, India had deposited its instrument of ratification of the Paris Agreement. Recognizing the importance of climate justice and the continuing relevance of common but differentiated responsibilities, India had already embarked on the path towards climate action. In accordance with its intended nationally determined contribution, India would lower its emissions intensity to 35 per cent, increase the share of non-fossil based power generation capacity to 40 per cent and create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 billion tonnes through afforestation.

68. India attached great importance to the area of disaster management, which was an area covered in the twelfth Five Year Plan and the subject of relevant

legislation enacted in 2005. A total of 10 per cent of development funds were earmarked for innovation, disaster mitigation and restoration. His country, which was committed to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, had recently released its national disaster management plan and would be hosting the biennial Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in November 2016 in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. It also hosted the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation Disaster Management Centre and the centre operating the tsunami early warning system.

69. As a major country of origin, destination and transit for migrants, India was committed to the international community's efforts to bring a humane approach and order to international migration. The agreed principles of common but differentiated responsibility must be respected.

70. **Ms. Yparraguirre** (Philippines) said that efforts in 2016 had sought to provide for the full and effective implementation of the priority goals set out in the agreements adopted in 2015. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted in September 2016 and the forthcoming adoption of the New Urban Agenda would build on the efforts to leave no one behind.

71. The Philippines had been one of the first countries to submit its voluntary national review, and that undertaking had provided an opportunity to identify which goals required greater focus. Her country's sustainable development strategy was based around human development. Continued efforts were being made to enhance the delivery and quality of basic social services, such as health, education and housing, benchmarked against global standards. Environmental preservation, cultural respect and the pursuit of social justice constituted key components of national development frameworks.

72. During the current session, the Philippines would continue to focus on the overarching goal of poverty eradication. To that end, it would continue to mainstream migration into the sustainable development agenda, advocate a more nuanced engagement for the United Nations development system with middle-income countries, and leverage South-South cooperation and ICT for development.

73. The Philippines attached high importance to disaster risk reduction and recognized the need for a risk-informed approach. As one of the countries most prone to disasters and vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, her country reiterated its call for climate justice and respect for the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities in the implementation of obligations under the Paris Agreement.

74. **Mr. Gad** (Egypt) said that consideration of achievements, lessons learned and the impetus required to achieve the ambitious 2030 Agenda should guide the work of the Second Committee. Priorities should include poverty eradication and reducing inequalities, economic growth and job creation, industrial development, and ensuring sufficient financing for development.

75. Over the previous year, many countries had finalized their national implementation plans and begun the first phase of implementation. Egypt would be pleased to share its experience of presenting its voluntary national review with other countries planning to present their reviews the following year.

76. Regarding implementation at the regional level, he highlighted the annual meetings of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and the Arab High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development and noted that the League of Arab States had established a new division for sustainable development issues. The United Nations, for its part, had engaged actively in launching various forums and platforms agreed under the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and had completed the follow-up and review framework. Although there had been important achievements in some areas, efforts in others had lacked the desired level of ambition.

77. Those efforts were being made against a backdrop of global economic challenges, notably limited access to sufficient means of implementation and continued structural challenges, which were affecting developing countries in particular. Africa's share in total world exports continued to decrease, as did the contribution of the manufacturing sector to Africa's GDP. Moreover, the total number of people living below the poverty line was increasing in some parts of the world, particularly Africa.

78. The international economic system was unable to support developing countries in achieving their aspirations and the situation had to be rectified. He asked what had been achieved in the protracted negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda and why support to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization — a leading United Nations agency in developing countries whose work constituted the very essence of Sustainable Development Goal 9 — was being withdrawn.

79. While multilateralism had many advantages, it also had a number of drawbacks, and introduced peripheral issues that detracted from the central focus. Poverty, which was the enemy of development, could be overcome only if States mobilized the necessary political will and sufficient means of implementation, while expanding their productive base and improving basic services.

80. **Ms. Rubiales de Chamorro** (Nicaragua) said that it was time for the international community to translate words into action to achieve the objectives of the historic 2030 Agenda and the overarching goal of poverty eradication. She called for a true global alliance providing access to financial and technological resources and stressed that the principle of common but differentiated responsibility must be respected.

81. Nicaragua, which had grown on average by 5.2 per cent over the previous five years, was striving to achieve its sustainable development. Its large institutional capacity for managing foreign investment and the administration of strategic projects, had enabled it to improve public finance, develop a public infrastructure and undertake important social programmes. Its relationship with international and regional financial institutions was a sovereign one and must not be subject to pressure or any form of politicization by their powerful members.

82. Developing countries suffered most from the adverse effects of climate change, and Nicaragua called for urgent action, such as the promotion of renewable energy and reforestation. Despite the financial constraints it faced, her country was bearing the costs of adaptation and mitigation measures, but emphasized that funding should come from those with historical responsibility. Nicaragua had also called for a world policy for compensation based on international law and taking into account the principle of damage recovery, and would continue to work within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Noting that disaster risk reduction was an important development issue, she said that the international community should increase its support of disaster reduction efforts in developing countries, including through the provision of technical assistance, technology transfer and capacity and resilience-building programmes.

83. Nicaragua reaffirmed its solidarity with the State of Palestine, and the right to development of peoples under occupation. It therefore supported the inclusion of the annual resolution concerning Palestine and resolutions pertaining to the occupied Arab territories.

84. **Ms. von Steiger Weber** (Switzerland) said that the Second Committee needed to adapt in order to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals were implemented. It should provide normative guidance on global sustainable development challenges, offer normative and operational guidance for the United Nations operational system, and ensure follow-up for international conferences without similar processes while avoiding duplication, including in the case of the high-level political forum and the forum on financing for development follow-up.

85. Switzerland attached particular attention to consideration of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. With the large number of actors involved and the limited resources available, efforts must be made to strengthen coherence and synergies in the United Nations development system.

86. Switzerland recognized the need for global commitment and accelerated action to address global water governance. It therefore supported the establishment of a coherent global water architecture and a United Nations intergovernmental body to achieve specific water-related goals as recommended by of the Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. Switzerland also called for the timely implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and action to ensure consistency with other recently adopted regulatory frameworks.

87. The private sector, scientific community and civil society must be involved in action to build more resilient societies. As discussed at the World Humanitarian

Summit, collaboration between humanitarian and development actors should be improved, and Switzerland would welcome greater involvement of development actors in situations of protracted displacement.

88. At the recent high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, concrete measures to address large flows of refugees and migrants had been agreed and the important contribution of migrants to sustainable development had been reaffirmed. However, the targets of the 2030 Agenda relating to migration were far from being achieved. Switzerland would participate actively in the development of a global compact for migration and work to strengthen coordination and cooperation on migration in the United Nations, in particular through the International Organization for Migration, which had recently joined the United Nations system. It would also seek to clarify the future of the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

89. **Mr. Sareer** (Maldives) said that his Government aimed to make the Maldives a resilient, diversified and high-income economy. However, challenges remained, including access to finance for large-scale infrastructure projects and insufficient domestic resource mobilization.

90. The economy, culture and identity of the Maldives and the livelihood of its people were intrinsically linked to the oceans. His country therefore looked forward to participating in the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.

91. Noting that the negative impacts of climate change threatened to erode development gains, particularly in small island developing States, he said that more attention should be given to the vulnerability of economies when assessing countries for graduation. Investment in adaptation measures in the Maldives was high, placing an additional burden on budgets that were already stretched. His country therefore welcomed the Paris Agreement.

92. In order to reduce dependence on imported fossil feels, his country had initiated a renewable energy investment programme that was on track to provide up to 30 per cent of the daytime peak load of electricity in all inhabited islands by 2018. It was striving to create an enabling environment for private sector participation through such initiatives as net metering. Energy efficiency components would shortly be incorporated in the national building code.

93. It was important to ensure adequate linkages between the 2030 Agenda and such agreements as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Agreement and the SAMOA Pathway, which was the guiding framework for sustainable development in small island developing States. Efforts must also be made to ensure that the reporting burden on small States with limited resources was not too high and to provide support for countries with limited statistical capacities.

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*

United Nations A/C.2/71/SR.3

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**Second Committee**

**Summary record of the 3rd meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 3 October 2016, at 3 p.m.

*Chair*: Mr. Djani ..... (Indonesia)

## Contents

General debate (*continued*)

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

**General debate** (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Kuwari** (Qatar) said that translating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into progress on the ground would require resource mobilization and international partnerships that took into account the different capacities and priorities of individual countries. His country's commitment to sustainable development was reflected in its Constitution, it national legislation and its Vision 2030 programme, which focused on economic growth, social development, environmental protection and women's empowerment.

2. Progress on the Doha Round negotiations was essential to achieving the Goal 17 target of promoting a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization. International cooperation should be conducted on the basis of mutual interest and respect for national sovereignty. His country had hosted a number of conferences on South-South cooperation. It had also contributed to international efforts to deal with the unprecedented number of refugees, and, during the high-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants held on the margins of the current session of the General Assembly, it had stressed the need to address the roots of the refugee crisis. Qatar had also been instrumental in establishing the Global Dryland Alliance to combat desertification. He once again urged the international community to support the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

3. **Mr. Khoshroo** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that in the first year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Islamic Republic of Iran had determined the responsibilities of various ministries and organizations for follow-up and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals and had established a national network for sustainable development . In the second year, his country intended to submit its voluntary national report to the high-level political forum on sustainable development. National priorities had been set for addressing poverty eradication, health protection, water and sanitation; developing renewable energy and improving energy efficiency; tackling climate change; combating desertification, deforestation and sand and dust storms; and protecting biodiversity and reducing disaster risk.

4. At the policy and institutional levels, two sets of overall policy guidelines for strengthening a resilient national economy and protecting the environment had been adopted. The first set of guidelines focused on improving economic growth and promoting social and environmental development, while the second set was concerned with enhancing the protection of the environment and promoting the green economy and low-carbon industries. The sixth national development plan addressed the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the domestic level, and the recently adopted country programme documents for 2017-2021 were inspired by the Agenda.

5. The region was confronting severe challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda. Those included not only poverty, land degradation, water scarcity, hotter climate conditions and extensive drought, but also terrorism and extremist violence. Such challenges would exacerbate poverty and environmental destruction, forcing Governments to spend limited resources on fighting insecurity rather than focusing on development.

6. Effective solutions needed to be found for global issues through enhanced cooperation among States Members of the United Nations. While some progress had been made in that regard, various grave challenges remained unresolved. In particular, measures to implement the Sustainable Development Goals must be ambitious, fully inclusive, and non-discriminatory. More effective international support and solidarity were required through capacity-building, technology transfer, trade facilitation, and access to financial resources, as well as refraining from any unilateral or coercive economic, financial or trade measures.

7. The United Nations system must provide an integrated and coherent response. It should play a critical, effective and coordinating role in strengthening the global partnership for sustainable development. United Nations operational activities for development must be enhanced and strengthened to support Member States in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.

8. **Ms. Nazaire** (Haiti) said that one year after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, the geopolitical context of their implementation was not encouraging. The lessons drawn from the 2008 financial crisis, and especially the reforms enacted, fell far short of the requirements of the situation. Global warming remained an existential threat, especially for small island developing States like Haiti, and made it urgent to find good solutions. It was essential for cooperation to be strengthened, best practices disseminated, experiences shared and specific modalities of action finetuned in the social, technical and especially financial sphere.

9. Haiti faced significant challenges in eradicating poverty and promoting equitable and sustainable development. Progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals had been impeded by latent structural deficiencies and by natural disasters and health challenges which had overwhelmed the nation's resilience. After 12 years of providing effective humanitarian and security aid, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti was preparing for a gradual withdrawal from her country. In addition, the first round of presidential elections and partial legislative elections would be held on 9 October 2016. Necessary adjustments had been made to the electoral process to guarantee free, fair and inclusive elections. It was a critical time to consolidate democracy and institutional stability, the basis for all balanced and sustainable macroeconomic growth.

10. Her Government intended to prioritize the targets and indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals by integrating them into its poverty-reduction and development plans. With the continuing support of its partners, and especially through triangular and South-South cooperation, it would continue to strengthen policy implementation at all levels, in both the public and the private sectors, and with civil society organizations and local communities.

11. The Declaration on the Right to Development must continue to guide the work of the Committee. Moreover, as a focus of emigration, her country was particularly concerned about the issue of refugees and migrants. Beyond the current crises that had been caused by armed conflicts, the global nature of the phenomenon of migration and especially economic migration must be put back in perspective and its legitimacy recognized The considerable benefits that migrants brought to their destination countries and their countries of origin must be better defined and the legal arsenal and means of recourse needed to be strengthened in order to protect the rights of migrant workers and their families. .

12. **Mr. Kononuchenko** (Russian Federation) said that since the General Assembly and other bodies shared responsibility for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee must adhere strictly to its mandate, focusing on trade and economic issues; global governance; national capacity-building to address environmental degradation; and enhancement of United Nations development mechanisms. Priority should be accorded to persistent negative trends in the world economy, which could slow achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in the least developed countries and countries in special situations. Discussions should be intensified on questions of the fair regulation of the problem of debt and strengthened tax regulation, including the issue of tax shelters; establishment of a transparent and non-discriminatory international trade system, taking into account the issue of the negative trend towards the formation of closed regional economic associations; and improved technology transfer, including in the context of combating climate change.

13. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system would play a major role in enhancing assistance to Member States in implementing Agenda 2030. The review would provide objective answers on ways to increase financing for United Nations operational agencies, enhance coordination between country teams and host country Governments, improve accountability mechanisms and expand national representation in the management of the United Nations development system.

14. His delegation was prepared to contribute to the improvement of the Committee's methods of work while abiding by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and also relevant General Assembly resolutions concerning revitalization of the Committee.

15. **Mr. Skinner-Klee** (Guatemala) said that while the adoption of the 2030 Agenda represented a new and transformative universal vision of sustainable

development, many questions remained regarding the implementation of the Agenda, meeting the needs of countries in special situations, and restructuring the development system of the United Nations. The Committee must focus on the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. Only in that way could greater consistency be achieved between decisions and implementation.

16. As a middle-income country, Guatemala attached great importance to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, which would provide an opportunity to develop a more integrated and consistent design for the operation of the United Nations and its agencies, and to define the way in which countries would approach the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, taking into account the priorities of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small countries and small island developing States, as well as middle-income countries. The review would be a good time to analyse experience, lessons learned, and best practices in order to achieve consensus on appropriate and transparent methods in the interests of countries, which must be effective actors in their own development.The next forum on financing for development follow-up should be the principal mechanism for constructive follow-up on the commitments of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, to avoid the weak results of the previous session.

17. The New Urban Agenda would serve as a roadmap for sustainable urban development over the next 20 years. It would help alleviate poverty, enhance the quality of life and combat environmental degradation, climate change and urban migration.

18. The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-22) would provide an opportunity to strengthen the commitment to work together to take strategic action in the areas of climate change, sustainable use of natural resources and disaster risk management. Almost 10 million people in Central America alone were affected by the El Niño phenomenon. The region was highly vulnerable to extreme weather events and natural disasters, and therefore needed to work in coordination with the United Nations through its programmes and specialized agencies on those issues. Because El Niño affected the most vulnerable populations, a culture of prevention and resiliency must be fostered in the region in order to prevent recurrent humanitarian crises. Emergency assistance provided short-term relief but did not contribute to long-term resilience.

19. Globalization and interdependence would be key to the work of the Committee, especially regarding international migration and development. Those issues were closely related, since lack of development led people to migrate in search of a better life. The migration crisis demanded a strategic response that focused on its underlying structural causes. Migration must no longer be seen as a problem, but rather a challenge to be faced. It was an unescapable reality, and was an issue that was local, national, regional and global.

20. As a testament to its commitment to the undertakings of the 2030 Agenda and related agreements, Guatemala had made a commitment to present its voluntary national review during the next session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in July 2017.

21. **Mr. Rattray** (Jamaica) said that in its deliberations on the 2030 Agenda, the Committee must remain mindful that it was creating a normative framework for addressing issues that directly affected the quality of life and sometimes the very survival of people. It should focus on securing deliverables for the people and fulfil the promise of leaving no one behind.

22. As a small island developing State, Jamaica fully recognized the need to increase efforts to implement the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda provided the basis for the mobilization of a portion of the investment capital that would be required to underwrite the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and especially the Sustainable Development Goals. Although financing needs far outpaced available public resources, the pool of global savings was sufficient to address those needs. Nevertheless, new and effective methods needed to be found to incentivize the reallocation and mobilization of that capital towards sustainable development.

23. Although Jamaica ranked high on the Human Development Index in many categories, income inequality was still a major obstacle; Jamaica's Gini

coefficient had been 45.5 in 2013. Along with its Caribbean Community colleagues, his country had called for a review of the graduation criteria used by international financial institutions. Gross domestic product per capita must be supplemented by data that took into account structural gaps impeding the development of middle-income countries, including levels of vulnerability, poverty, savings and investment, productivity and innovation, and public expenditures on health, education, and infrastructure.

24. The Prime Minister of Jamaica had recently informed the General Assembly that the time had come for the international community to converge around an initiative for heavily indebted middle-income countries, underpinned by the principle that countries that had structural vulnerabilities, such as small size or susceptibility to climate change, and had responsibly and faithfully serviced their debt, must be provided with assistance in the form of investment, favourable trade, technology transfer, security, and energy. The collective size of the problem was such that the initiative would not burden the international system. However, the impact of assisting those countries in transitioning would enable them to make greater contributions to the international system in the near future.

25. **Ms. Rodriguez Abascal** (Cuba) said that her delegation looked forward to taking part in consultations characterized by constructive debate and respect between delegations and a commitment to working together under equal conditions, taking into account the different realities, capabilities and levels of development of each country, while respecting their policy space, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations. The imposition of non-consensual proposals that represented only the interests of developed countries was not an appropriate working method for the Committee. Developing countries chose their development model in a sovereign manner and their voices must be heard and respected. There was a need for compromise, political will and cooperation between all Member States.

26. Annual military spending of 1.7 trillion dollars belied affirmations that there were no resources to eliminate poverty and underdevelopment. Conflicts between peoples must be ended, and the root causes of those conflicts must be eliminated. Eradicating poverty in all of its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, was the greatest challenge facing the world and constituted a prerequisite for sustainable development.

27. A majority of the international community had repeatedly rejected the imposition of unilateral coercive measures that prevented peoples from fully achieving economic and social development, especially in developing countries. Cuba strongly rejected that practice and once again urged States to refrain from unilaterally promulgating and applying such measures, which were incompatible with international law and the Charter of the United Nations. For more than 50 years, the people of Cuba had endured the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the Government of the United States of America. The right to development in Cuba was limited by the negative effects of the blockade, whose economic damages amounted to over US$ 753 billion. Despite the ongoing impact of the blockade, the Cuban people continued to develop the economic and social model that they had chosen in a sovereign manner in order to build a sovereign, prosperous and sustainable nation.

28. Climate change represented a real threat to human survival and demanded the highest degree of international cooperation. The Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change represented an important starting point, but was not sufficient to preserve the planet for future generations. Industrialized nations must take responsibility for their ecological debt, change their irrational patterns of production and consumption, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and honour the commitments made regarding financing and the transfer of technology to developing countries. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities must govern that process.

29. Cuba reiterated the imperative need to achieve a new international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interests and cooperation between all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, that would make it possible to correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, eliminate the growing disparities between developed and developing countries, and guarantee fair economic and social development for current and future generations.

30. South-South cooperation remained important for development, but owing to limited resources, it could not be a substitute for North-South cooperation. The upcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review would be a good opportunity to reaffirm the principles that guided the activities of the United Nations at the country level.. The outcome of that review should contribute to the strengthening of the principles of multilateralism and international cooperation as well as the intergovernmental nature of the United Nations and its agencies, funds and programmes. It must ensure that the system responded effectively to the needs of developing countries and the efforts of Governments to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development.

31. **Ms. Nguyen** (Viet Nam) said that her delegation was encouraged by the progress made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; however, a long and bumpy road lay ahead. The Committee must ensure the integration and advancement of all three dimensions of development equally. It therefore must adopt an integrated, balanced and holistic approach in dealing with important issues like poverty eradication, financing for development, operational activities, global climate and partnership.

32. Poverty eradication was the overarching objective; as a multifaceted issue, it must be addressed with all available synergies, striving to reach those furthest behind. The international community must not only deliver on the commitments to provide more resources for development but also promote a more enabling and predictable environment for new resources to be created and maintained, especially for those most in need.

33. The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals depended on the means of implementation. Support for developing countries, including financial assistance, trade facilitation, transfer of technology and capacity-building, was fundamental and should be tailored to specific needs and constraints. North-South cooperation remained central, and the fulfilment of the official development assistance commitments was paramount. Avenues must be created to enable developing countries to engage in global trade; that goal could only be achieved through a multilateral trading system that was universal, rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, non-discriminatory and equitable. Structural changes were needed to address the imbalances, discrimination, and inequities in the global trading system and to prevent trade restrictions and distortions. Developing countries were also facing a widening technology gap, especially a digital divide; all stakeholders must assist developing countries with capacity-building and green technology.

34. Viet Nam was heartened that the Paris Agreement would soon enter into force, and was accelerating its internal procedures to achieve ratification as soon as possible. Adaptation to climate change was urgent for the survival and sustainability of many developing countries; developed countries must continue to take the lead in climate financing, technology transfer, and capacity-building for developing countries.

35. Since 70 per cent of the world's poor lived in middle-income countries and faced challenges that were not measurable on the income scale, more integrated and focused support must be given to those countries, including financial assistance, quality policy advice, and capacity-building, to enable them to sustain their achievements and continue development.

36. **Mr. Morales** (Colombia) said that the commitment to leave no-one behind would entail the adoption of innovative domestic and international commitments, in order to close gaps and achieve equality within and between countries. The technology divide was a determining factor in the social and economic disparities that were hindering development not only for population groups but also for States with limited or no access. The Technology Facilitation Mechanism agreed to in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda must be fully implemented.

37. One of the greatest challenges to achieving sustainable development in all countries was the ability to take advantage of the positive potential of migration. Defining the dates and periodicity for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development would be a priority for the Committee in 2016. The draft resolution on that matter must ensure consistency between the Dialogue, the conference to adopt a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018, and the review of Sustainable Development Goal 10 scheduled for 2019.

38. For the 2030 Agenda to succeed, an enabling international environment was required that supported national and regional efforts. Concrete progress must

continue to be made on systemic issues. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda lacked the degree of ambition, specificity and concreteness required to create a more level playing field and effectively support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The development system of the United Nations must support the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda by strengthening institutional capacity and national ownership, which must be reflected in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. The review must ensure that the United Nations development system could respond in an effective, coordinated, and specific way to the needs of middle-income countries, which faced serious challenges to achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty.

39. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that for many peoples, the road to development depended firstly on developing partnerships and secondly on building societies that were free from violence and extremism; both those objectives should be accomplished without double standards and on the basis of respect for national sovereignty and cultural specificities. Most States faced their own particular development challenges that could not be addressed by a one-size-fits-all approach. In his country, the principal challenge to development was the spread of terrorism and extremism, which not only undermined security and stability, but threatened the principle of coexistence that lay at the heart of Syrian identity. He called on Member States to work earnestly and impartially to fulfil their obligations under the Security Council resolutions on combating the financing of terrorism.

40. The first order of business in implementing the 2030 Agenda should be the abolition of unilateral economic measures, which were being imposed on his country by the very States that most loudly proclaimed their concern for the Syrian people. Just a few days earlier, a report published jointly by the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Syria and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia had shown that the unilateral measures imposed against Syria by the United States of America and the European Union were affecting all segments of the Syrian population across all sectors, and were also impeding the delivery of humanitarian aid. Meanwhile, Israel was not only continuing to appropriate natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan, but was also actively prolonging the crisis in Syria by providing support to the Nusrah Front and other armed terrorist groups in the area of separation in the Syrian Golan in violation of the Disengagement Agreement. Without genuine international solidarity and partnership, the goal of leavingno one behind would remain nothing but an empty slogan.

41. **Mr. Perera** (Sri Lanka) said that the 2030 Agenda was a visionary plan of action that had the potential to transform the lives of billions of people. In the implementation stage, Member States must end poverty and hunger; protect the planet from degradation; and ensure that all human beings could lead prosperous and fulfilling lives.

42. His country had been the first in the Asia-Pacific region to establish a Ministry for Sustainable Development and, as the current chair of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, it was also uniquely positioned to implement the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level, thereby setting a precedent for the region. A national sustainable development act currently before parliament was intended to facilitate the formulation of a national policy and strategy on sustainable development and provide a related legal and institutional framework in which ministries, local governments and public sector agencies would have a mandate to carry out audits and provide annual progress reports.

43. The Ministry for Sustainable Development had begun to develop a national sustainable development road map for the purpose of planning for an inclusive transformation, and had launched national and provincial sustainable development engagement platforms involving political and administrative representatives, local government, civil society, academia, the private sector, development agencies, women and young people. The ultimate goal was to create a model for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in three phases: 2017 to 2020; 2020 to 2025; and 2025 to 2030.

44. Poverty was a serious challenge in Sri Lanka. His country had succeeded in halving poverty at the national level seven years before 2015, but poverty remained the greatest obstacle to development. Economic development should therefore go hand in

hand with sustainable development. His Government had declared 2017 the year of freedom from poverty.

45. A nation needed to be at peace with itself and other nations in order to achieve sustainable development. The recent political transition in his country had created peacebuilding opportunities following a 30-year conflict. Also required were good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights. The current political climate in his country provided an enabling environment for the achievement of those objectives.

46. Sri Lanka had almost achieved the targets of universal primary education and had made progress towards achieving gender equality in education. Child and maternal mortality rates had been greatly reduced. It had also given a high priority to combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases. In September 2016, the World Health Organization had declared Sri Lanka a malaria-free country.

47. Rising to the challenge of climate change was key to protecting the planet for future generations. His country had therefore signed the Paris Agreement and deposited the instrument of ratification on 21 September 2016.

48. **Ms. Krishnamurti** (Indonesia) said that emerging market and developing countries were facing strong headwinds, including weaker growth among advanced economies and low commodity prices. Island countries and coastline populations had already been severely affected by climate effects, including rising sea levels and longer, more intense heat waves. However, through collective action, it was possible to overcome the odds. The Committee had a key role in formulating consensus to support the implementation of the 2030 agenda and must be active in integrating the three pillars of sustainable development.

49. Inclusive growth and shared prosperity were essential to ensure that no-one was left behind. By using technology and innovation to create jobs and increase productivity, trade and investment could be re-energized. Enhancing connectivity through infrastructure development was paramount to a modern economy, including the blue economy. Opportunities for partnerships and collaboration existed and should take into account specific country and community needs, for which programmes should be tailor-made. Developing capacity to assess and apply the appropriate technology to the local context was an urgent priority; if necessary, special and differential treatment should be provided to assist countries in their development efforts. Business as usual would not bring the needed transformation. A new level of engagement was required for the entire United Nations system; the development system must work as one and be ready to provide targeted and tailored support. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review would be important in clarifying the vision for the new role of the system.

50. Indonesia had integrated the Sustainable Development Goals into its medium-term development plan. It would use the framework of the Goals to strengthen planning, coordination, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of its development programs.

51. **Mr. Rai** (Papua New Guinea) said that the lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals should help States to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals to peoples and countries and thereby ensure a transformative sustainable future. Papua New Guinea had established a national strategy for responsible sustainable development, which was a blueprint for its review and integration of sustainable development actions. Although much remained to be done, the 2030 Agenda had led to a paradigm shift in the way countries approached national development. The positive early start of work on the Sustainable Development Goals stood in stark contrast to the Millennium Development Goals.

52. National leadership, ownership and policy space were key to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the country level. External partnerships and development cooperation, including South-South cooperation and North-South cooperation, would contribute to national efforts and the former should be a complement to, and not a replacement for, the latter. Development cooperation should be aligned with national development policies and strategies and should build national capacity in areas determined by national authorities.

53. In his country, as in many others, credible and timely disaggregated data were needed to support the 2030 Agenda. For that purpose, capacity-building, technical assistance and transfers of technology were key aspects of development cooperation. A centralized

data and statistics bank covering the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets and indicators would facilitate the follow-up and review process. Development partners such as Australia and the United Nations had recognized that concern and were working with Papua New Guinea to strengthen its national statistics office.

54. The high-level political forum on sustainable development had done constructive work and its outcomes had helped his country to shape its sustainable development aspirations. The principle of leaving no one behind reflected the importance of the promotion and protection of human rights in an enabling environment for sustainable development. A key element of that principle related to the adverse effects of climate change. Small island developing States in particular were vulnerable to those effects and faced challenges such as rising sea levels, the loss of arable land, ocean acidification and inclement weather patterns. Countries that had not yet ratified the Paris Agreement should do so without delay; the early implementation of the Agreement would reassure peoples and countries on the front lines of climate change that they would not be left behind.

55. A key sustainable development issue for Papua New Guinea, as an archipelagic State, was the health, productivity and resilience of the oceans. As a champion of Sustainable Development Goal 14 during the Open Working Group process and in the post-2015 consultation process, his country had continued to highlight the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and seas, whose health was under stress primarily as a result of human activities such as illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and activities that caused pollution and acidification. The high-level United Nations conference on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 should therefore advance action on the development agenda relating to oceans and seas. Furthermore, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should provide the United Nations development system with adequate guidance in its efforts to assist countries with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

56. **Mr. Sobral Duarte** (Brazil) said that the high-level political forum on sustainable development had demonstrated that althoughmany countries had shown progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, a few developed countries had been focusing mainly on development assistance, as in the case of the Millennium Development Goals. The message should be clear that all countries, including the developed countries, must implement the Sustainable Development Goals, and the United Nations development system must adapt to live up to that challenge.

57. His delegation suggested that the Committee and the Economic and Social Council convene a joint meeting at which the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Financing for Development Office could brief the membership of the Committee and the Council on the follow-up mechanisms for the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Such a meeting could offer an assessment of gaps in human, financial and budgetary resources and consolidate them to make the mechanisms more effective.

58. The Committee's draft resolution concerning the quadrennial comprehensive policy review must enable the United Nations development system to adequately support the development of national capacities and the review and monitoring of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Agencies, funds and programmes should contribute to the creation of an international environment that led to the full eradication of poverty and the global and local achievement of sustainable development.

59. The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) was a once-in-a-generation opportunity to discuss the rapid growth in urban populations, a phenomenon which would continue, primarily in developing countries, over the next 30 years. The New Urban Agenda was in tune with an increasingly urbanized planet and with the need to incorporate local governments and civil society into the decision-making processes.

60. Brazil had ratified the Paris Agreement; its nationally determined contribution was among the most ambitious of developed and developing countries alike, projecting a reduction of 43 per cent in emissions of greenhouse gases by 2030. It was also integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into its short-, medium- and long-term strategies. However, a successful outcome at the global level could be achieved only if resources were provided that matched

the ambition and transformative nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.

61. **Ms. Mendelson** (United States of America) said that the momentum that had led to the achievements of the past year needed to be preserved in order to demonstrate that the United Nations, and the Committee in particular, could make further gains. The draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, for instance, wouldserve as an opportunity to promote reform of the various United Nations agencies involved in the delivery of development and humanitarian assistance, and make their work more effective.

62. The Committee's failed revitalization effort in the spring of 2016 had called into question its value as a dynamic forum for finding solutions to the most pressing economic, social and environmental challenges. The Committee needed to adapt itself in order to meaningfully address global development priorities. Resources were limited, and it was important not to squander them in arguments over narrow and irrelevant considerations. The Committee could not allow itself to repeat the mistakes made at its previous session, during which draft resolution submission deadlines had been routinely ignored and negotiations had continued well beyond the official closing of the session. It must conclude its work efficiently and on time. If the Committee did not act in a more dignified and professional manner, her delegation would view it as less relevant and would therefore devote less time to negotiation, and be more willing to call for votes on contentious draft resolutions.

63. Her delegation firmly believed that the Member States could indeed work together to formulate concrete solutions to the world's most difficult challenges, as had been demonstrated by several high-level multilateral events over the previous year. Though it was likely that consensus would not always be within reach, the key to success was to communicate early and often, rather than allow mistrust to build. It was important to work together to ensure that the draft resolutions to be adopted by the Committee were aligned with the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other recent transformative, multilateral agreements, and that the Committee provided political guidance to the United Nations development system to implement such agreements and evaluate their outcomes.

64. **Mr. Pedersen** (Norway) said that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement called for new strategic partnerships at all levels to eradicate poverty through sustainable development. National implementation was key.

65. His country had to presented its national voluntary review to the high-level political forum on Sustainable Development and now looked forward to accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals domestically and through international cooperation. In presenting Norway's voluntary review, the Prime Minister of Norway had stressed that the Goals were the main track to address the root causes of poverty and had emphasized both the universality of the agenda and the need for international solidarity. Poverty was avoidable and unacceptable; collective efforts must be stepped up to prevent and curb conflicts, build basic infrastructure, and reach the most vulnerable. His country would continue to provide substantial financial assistance at levels well above the 0.7 per cent target for official development assistance.

66. The United Nations must do its part; the quadrennial comprehensive policy review would be an opportunity to transform the United Nations development system into a more strategic, coordinated and focused system that took appropriate and timely action. The United Nations must focus its efforts where the needs were greatest and where it could make the greatest impact. A differentiated approach based on each country's context was required.

67. Funding was the driver for change. Core resources remained crucial, particularly for normative functions and policy advice, and improved burden-sharing was needed. Adherence to the principle of full cost recovery would enhance core resources. Core-like funding modalities should be increased, especially those that provided incentives for United Nations bodies to work together. The United Nations must do better in delivering as one at the country level. An independent resident coordinator with authority and sufficient resources was a prerequisite in that regard.

68. Ownership, leadership, and partnerships at all levels were required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations system must support implementation and promote consistent and accountable follow-up by and for all. His country would work with other delegations to find constructive ways to strengthen the work of the Committee and update its agenda in order to ensure relevance, impact and added value. Business as usual would no longer suffice.

69. **Ms. Guadey** (Ethiopia) said that the Committee should focus on identifying practical challenges and solutions to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. That work had begun at a turbulent time; even so, the Agenda could address the challenges if it was implemented in a comprehensive and balanced manner. The world had adequate financial and human resources to end poverty, adapt to climate change and manage natural and humanitarian crises. What was needed was a genuine and revitalized global partnership so that through collective responsibility, according to differentiated abilities, a life of dignity and prosperity could be ensured for all peoples.

70. Since the commitments in the context of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda had not yet been fulfilled, it was crucial to mobilize financing from all sources and align it with the Sustainable Development Goals. Foreign direct investment should be aligned with national development priorities, and institutional coordination should be strengthened by robust follow-up and monitoring mechanisms. It was critical to create an enabling environment to achieve inclusive and sustainable development.

71. The Paris Agreement must be fully implemented; in particular, new and additional financial resources and transfer of technology were needed for developing countries, especially the most vulnerable countries. Her country was committed to ratifying the Agreement in 2016.

72. Recognizing that it was the primary responsibility of national governments to ensure development, Ethiopia was continuing to put poverty eradication at the centre of its development agenda and had commenced the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The country's extraordinarily fast growth had continued in spite of the frail international economic environment, thereby improving the well-being of the people and enhancing competitiveness. Ethiopia was working towards becoming a zero-carbon and climate-resilient middle-income country by 2025. It faced several obstacles to its national development endeavour, however, including a lack of good governance, unemployment, weak export performance, an increasing trade deficit and the impact of El Niño. There was a need for enhanced and revitalized international support and cooperation; it was only through intensive global engagement that the 2030 Agenda could be implemented for the benefit of all.

73. **Mr. Blanchard** (Canada), said that in a world in which weak economic growth seemed to have become the norm, the Committee needed to consider whether its work would contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, includingmeasures that would spur economic growth and development and eliminate the scourge of poverty and hunger, foster the scaling-up of private sector investment in sustainable development, and attract capital to areas traditionally overlooked by global investment flows, such as small island States and least developed countries, all while remaining conscious of the social and environmental impact of those actions.

74. His country's approach to the 2030 Agenda was guided by the profound belief that diversity was a source of strength. Canada would promote measures that strengthened social inclusion, intercultural dialogue and understanding, tolerance and mutual respect, pluralism and peaceful coexistence. At the international level, it was refocusing its assistance on the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly in fragile States, in line with the Agenda. It looked forward to increased collaboration and the involvement of new actors to address global challenges in innovative ways that enhanced capacity-building, trade, governance, gender equality and security to ensure that no one was left behind and that the furthest behind were reached first.

75. In the context of the Paris Agreement, the Canadian Prime Minister had stated that developing countries should not be punished for problems they had not created, and should have equal access to opportunities for clean growth pursued by developed countries. The current session of the Committee must be guided by a spirit of cooperation and partnership;

collective action was needed in order to implement the 2030 Agenda.

76. **Mr. Adeoye** (Nigeria) said that the seventy-first session of the General Assembly would pave the way for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, the work of the Committee should establish a robust implementation framework, target poverty eradication and pursue all three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced, coordinated and integrated manner.

77. Countries had an obligation to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular by curbing illicit financial flows and developing mechanisms to return the related resources and assets to the countries of origin; removing restrictive trade measures and unfair barriers to international trade; and ensuring a transparent international financial system. His country remained committed to the Abuja Declaration adopted during the African Regional Preparatory Meeting on the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). Funding should be increased to cover the increase in housing needs of rural-to-urban migrants.

78. **Mr. Pisarevich** (Belarus) said that sluggish global economic growth, uncertain prospects and, above all, geopolitical instability, would have an adverse impact on efforts to eradicate poverty and inequality in implementation of to the 2030 Agenda. Because decisions on the world economy fell primarily to organizations and mechanisms other than the United Nations, such as the Group of 20, the United Nations was unable to make full use of its potential to address sustainable development challenges. It should therefore establish more productive relations with such mechanisms, especially the Group of 20, with which it should cooperate on sustainable development in a complementary manner. Consultations should be held between Member States of the United Nations and the Group of 20 just prior to the summit meetings of that Group to discuss priority sustainable development issues.

79. With regional integration an important new trend, regional blocs were taking on an autonomy previously exercised only by States. There was a need for cooperation mechanisms among regional processes, analogous to the cooperation mechanisms that existed for States. Belarus, which was an active participant in a number of regional integration processes, believed in the benefits of strengthened cooperation between regional initiatives. In order to contribute to an approach that could be termed 'integrating integration,' Belarus would be hosting an international conference in Minsk on the topic, with support from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe The conference outcome should contribute to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals through regional integration processes.

80. The main idea of the Sustainable Development Goals, leaving no one behind, should apply not only to individuals and groups of people, as many interpreted it, but also to States and groups of States. It could hardly be said that the United Nations ensured inclusivity in respect of all groups of States, particularly middle-income States. The sustainable development challenges facing those States were well-known, but there were no specific mechanisms within the United Nations for cooperating with those countries. They were the only group of countries that lacked a policy document, such as a strategy or plan of action, on cooperation with the United Nations. Accordingly, cooperation was carried out on an ad hoc basis, done one way on a given day and a different way the next. That situation must change, and a United Nations plan of action on cooperation with the middle-income countries must be formulated.

81. Committee members should not hesitate to advance ideas that might initially seem far-fetched. For example, energy was very important for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as it was closely linked to climate change, economic growth, food security and other global challenges, but the United Nations lacked a comprehensive approach to that issue. Its various aspects were considered by a range of organizations, from the International Atomic Energy Agency to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to the International Renewable Energy Agency. In that context, a proposal that Belarus had put forth some time earlier, to set up an integrated United Nations energy agenda, remained very timely, and could be achieved through the adoption of a General Assembly resolution.

82. Improving the working methods of the Organization and synchronizing the activities of its various bodies were unquestionably important to the

implementation of the 2030 Agenda but must not become interminable processes or ends in themselves. The United Nations and its Member States should not fall prey to bureaucracy and protocol, as the Agenda was a matter of life and death for real human beings.

83. **Mr. Al-Nuaimi** (United Arab Emirates) said that although it was not possible to adopt a specific resolution for each and every Sustainable Development Goal, he hoped that the Committee would give due consideration to all aspects of the 2030 Agenda. He reminded Member States that foreign occupation was a major obstacle to development for many peoples, and urged them to be mindful of the rights of observer States. It was important to address the root causes of poverty, as well as conflict, through resolutions that stressed universal access to the minimum standards for a life of dignity, including access to clean drinking water, health services, education, energy and information and communications technology.

84. His country had dramatically reduced the costs of solar energy, making that sector a significant contributor to economic growth and job creation. The United Arab Emirates had been among the first countries in its region to ratify the Paris Agreement. It believed that sustainable development could not be attained without the participation of women, and its commitment to mainstreaming gender was reflected by the presence of five woman ministers in its Cabinet. Over 200 nationalities lived side by side in the United Arab Emirates in an atmosphere of religious and cultural tolerance; his Government had appointed a Minister of State for Tolerance, in the belief that extremist ideologies were the biggest obstacles facing development.

85. The United Arab Emirates was incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals into its national development plan, UAE Vision 2021, and was proud to be one of the world's leading per capita contributors to official development assistance, at 1 per cent of its GDP. It would be hosting several major international events on sustainable development in the coming year, and looked forward to the adoption of the New Urban Agenda at the upcoming Habitat III Conference.

86. **Ms. Lodhi** (Pakistan) said that a new global development paradigm endorsed and owned by every country, had been crafted in 2015. The 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement had renewed faith in multilateralism and international development cooperation, but posed key implementation and leadership challenges. Political support and ownership should be reinforced. Some of the challenges faced by developing countries, such as climate change, hunger and poverty, could not be addressed without comprehensive support mechanisms; matching resources would be a critical test of renewed global partnership. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda provided deliverables complementing the means outlined in the 2030 agenda itself, and official development assistance commitments remained an important source of financing in many developing countries, particularly small island developing States and least developed countries. The 2030 Agenda needed follow-up and periodic reviews if it was to remain central.

87. Thematic discussions and national reviews during the high-level political forum on sustainable development had shown that the international community was moving in the right direction, but much remained to be done. The Committee should therefore mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals and targets into its agenda. The range of issues addressed by the Sustainable Development Goals and their universal nature required a recalibration of the United Nations development system to take into account institutional, organizational, functional, financial and operational aspects. Institutional recalibration and inertia in governance systems remained a challenge; the United Nations should be made responsive to the emerging needs of the developing world in a transparent and inclusive manner. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review provided an opportunity to address that issue in a holistic manner.

88. Pakistan had always emphasized the role of trade in development. Persistent inequities in the international economic and trading systems needed to be addressed. Many concerns of developing countries relating to agriculture, misuse of subsidies, intellectual property rights, and the opaque and restricted use of various standards remained unresolved. Greater collaboration to address inequities and ensure inclusion in trade, finance and investment would be needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

89. Climate change was one of the defining issues of the current era. It was encouraging that 62 States Parties, accounting for around 52 per cent of total

global greenhouse gas emissions, had ratified the Paris Agreement. Pakistan had signed the agreement on the day it was opened for signature and remained committed to implementing it: it had initiated procedures for early ratification.

90. The right of self-determination was enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. During the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the suffering of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation must not be overlooked. Obstacles to the full realization of their right of self-determination should be removed in order to enable them to achieve economic and social development and implement the Sustainable Development Goals. They must not be left behind.

91. **Mr. Saikal** (Afghanistan) said that the high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for least developed countries and the high-level political forum on sustainable development would provide guidance for the sustainable development process and had been opportunities to exchange views on common challenges, best practices and lessons learned. Coherence in the United Nations system should be fostered by adopting a holistic approach to sustainable development and honouring the promise to leave no one behind. That meant addressing the needs of countries in special situations, in particular least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, which had always faced unique challenges given that conflict not only impeded but also reversed development gains. The Committee should prioritize strengthening of the link between peace and security, and development. To that end, Sustainable Development Goal 16 should be mainstreamed into the draft resolutions and documents adopted by the Committee.

92. The financing for development commitments made in Addis Ababa must be fulfilled. Indeed, official development assistance, especially for least developed countries and landlocked developing countries, was key to supporting sustainable development and economic growth. Meanwhile, Afghanistan would ratify the Paris Agreement since it was highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change even though it had not been responsible for the problem in the first place. The international community should fulfil its financial commitments to developing countries so as to build their capacity to adapt.

93. It was important to build synergies between the high-level midterm review and the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, the timely implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction would ensure more effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review was of the utmost importance in ensuring the alignment of the United Nations development system with the 2030 Agenda and should pay special attention to the transition from relief to development, the funding of core resources, poverty eradication and the needs of countries in special situations.

94. The Brussels Conference on Afghanistan would provide a platform for his Government, the international community and other partners to reaffirm and consolidate their partnership for peace and prosperity in Afghanistan. For that important occasion, his Government had prepared a national peace and development framework which was a five-year strategic plan for achieving self-reliance and sustainable development, reducing poverty and ensuring security and stability. The framework had been developed in accordance with the goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda and was intended to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals while addressing the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals. His Government had also developed a roadmap for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, guided by a national coordination committee. Other technical working groups involving his Government, parliament, United Nations agencies, civil society and the private sector had also been established to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

95. **Mr. Nduhuura** (Uganda) said that the world was at a critical juncture, with serious global challenges to be faced. Now was the time to act and deliver on commitments in order to transform communities without leaving anyone behind.

96. Uganda had integrated climate change policies and the Sustainable Development Goals into its national development plans. His country had offered to participate in the first voluntary progress review during the high-level political forum on sustainable

development in July 2016. It had enacted enabling laws, such as the Public Finance Management Act and the Public Private Partnership Act of 2015, in order to mobilize the necessary resources from both public and private sectors and had also recently ratified the Paris Agreement.

97. His country was actively involved in regional integration initiatives to facilitate job creation by expanding regional markets, foreign direct investment and tourism. Policies and programmes had been created for youth employment, student loans, social assistance for the elderly, legal aid, women's entrepreneurship and skills development for disadvantaged groups. His Government looked forward to working with international partners to achieve the objectives set out in its development plans.

98. The international financial system must foster an atmosphere that was conducive to enabling developing countries to gain access to long-term financing. The World Trade Organization must conclude the Doha Round of negotiations to facilitate access to markets for less developed countries through special and differential treatment.

99. It must be borne in mind that all 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda were interlinked and equally important. The Goals must be implemented together, so that no section of society was left behind.

100. Mass movements of refugees had introduced new dynamics to sustainable global development. Uganda was now the eighth largest hosting country in the world, and the third by gross domestic product. Although global asylum space was dwindling, his country had incorporated refugee protection and management into the national development plan and the United Nations development assistance framework and the needs of host communities had been integrated into the refugee response. Uganda welcomed partnership and support from all stakeholders to ease the pressure resulting from the massive influx of refugees given that it would soon be host to over 1 million refugees.

101. There could be no development without peace and no peace without development. His country was optimistic that the Security Council would demonstrate leadership to resolve violent conflicts so that refugees could be repatriated and rebuild their lives.

102. **Mr. Abbas** (Lebanon) said that the focus in the second year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda should shift towards the provision of adequate means of implementation through a revitalized global partnership drawing on public and private financial resources, building capacity and facilitating transfers of technology to developing countries.

103. His country was drafting a national sustainable development plan covering various economic sectors and aligned with the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, while also introducing country-specific targets. Special attention would be devoted to goals that were considered more urgent within the national context and consultations were under way with Government ministries and agencies as well as other stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, academia and United Nations agencies operating in Lebanon.

104. Since 2011, Lebanon had been engulfed by a humanitarian crisis resulting from the influx of over 1.2 million refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic, putting immense social, demographic, environmental and economic pressures on Lebanese society. Unemployment had risen and the limited resources and infrastructure of Lebanese host communities had been overstretched. Addressing such a formidable challenge would require not only short-term humanitarian assistance but also longer-term development financing on concessional terms, otherwise the ability of Lebanon to implement the 2030 Agenda and its national sustainable development plan would be seriously curtailed.

105. The United Nations development system would be key to assisting developing countries during the implementation and follow-up phases of the 2030 Agenda through the provision of integrated normative support, evidence-based policy advice, and capacity-building in areas such as data collection and technology facilitation. It should also help to build partnerships, bring together stakeholders and mobilize domestic and international public and private resources. For that purpose, it was important to make the United Nations development assistance framework more coherent and integrated; revitalize the resident coordinator system; ensure more predictable and sustainable funding; and improve coordination between

development and humanitarian activities, in particular during protracted crises.

106. Lebanon was about to sign a new United Nations strategic framework for 2017-2020 with a view to addressing the multi-dimensional challenges the country was facing. The expertise and resources of the United Nations should be leveraged in order to maintain peace and stability and enable Lebanon to address its security, political, governance and socioeconomic challenges and put it on the path to longer-term sustainable development.

107. The marine oil spill caused by the Israel's destruction of oil storage tanks at a power plant south of Beirut in 2006 continued to have an impact on health, economic growth and efforts to achieve sustainable development in Lebanon. The inability to contain the spread of oil immediately after the attack, as a result of an Israeli military blockade, had led to prolonged adverse effects. Lebanon relied on the international community to once again adopt a resolution calling on Israel to accept responsibility and provide prompt and adequate compensation to Lebanon.

108. **Mr. Elmajerbi** (Libya) said that translating the commitments contained in the 2030 Agenda into reality would require a coordinated response to development challenges. States needed to incorporate the three dimensions of sustainable development into their national plans on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. It was crucial for the international community to provide adequate financing, capacity-building and technology transfer to developing States.

109. While welcoming the high-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants held at the current session of the General Assembly, he stressed that responsibility for meeting the challenges posed by illegal migration should not fall disproportionately on any one State. Security measures alone were not adequate, and needed to be supplemented by development programmes and economic reform in the countries of origin. His Government looked forward to the support of the United Nations and friendly States for its efforts to restore stability and restart the economy.

110. Capital flight from developing countries to both developed countries and safe havens was also retarding the pace of development. It was time for States to implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption and create mechanisms for the retrieval of plundered assets, which, in the case of Libya, would provide a valuable source of financing for reconstruction. The international community also needed to devote the necessary attention to obstacles to development faced by peoples suffering under foreign occupation — in particular the Palestinian people — in accordance with the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20), which had stressed the right of peoples living under foreign occupation to self-determination and the use of their resources.

111. **Mr. Ten-Pow** (Guyana) said that the seventy-first session of the General Assembly would build on the historic global agreements of 2015. The work of the Committee would have renewed significance in the context of the implementation of those agreements. Important priorities included the mainstreaming of sustainable development, creating a more conducive international environment, and devoting greater attention to challenges faced by States with particular needs. Global interdependence was an inescapable reality reflected in rising migration, climate change, poverty and hunger, and unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, as well as uneven social, economic and environmental development.

112. More attention should be devoted to small island developing States, low-lying coastal developing States and middle-income countries, which often made a disproportionate contribution to addressing global challenges but faced crippling development challenges compounded by size, geography and a lack of resources and capacity. Progress in those countries was too often reversed by climate change, natural disasters or external economic shocks that they were unable to control. Efforts to graduate those countries from concessionary financial assistance based solely on per capita gross domestic product failed to take account of those realities. Moreover, the accumulation of unsustainable levels of debt by many small island developing States prevented them from investing in the infrastructure they needed to build resistance to exogenous shocks. A supportive and responsive international framework should therefore be created to

address such factors as climate change, trade, debt, international tax cooperation, food security and natural disasters so that developing countries could make investments, build resilience and incentivize sustainable development.

113. Security and stability were also a prerequisite for fulfilling the development aspirations of developing countries. In that regard, the value of global norms enabling the enjoyment of human rights by all, the rule of law at all levels, including in relations between States, and the peaceful settlement of international disputes could not be underestimated.

114. His country was committed to achieving the good life for all of its citizens through poverty eradication, the achievement of equality, and the promotion of education. Guyana was therefore striving to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in a holistic manner and focusing on entry points in such areas as education, food security, energy and infrastructure, all of which could provide synergistic benefits for the implementation of the Agenda as a whole.

115. Guyana was an emerging "green" State committed to the interlocking objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Guyanese lived with the constant reality of the adverse impacts of climate change, including the peril of rising sea levels. His country had therefore already signed and ratified the Paris Agreement and looked forward to its early entry into force. In working for the establishment of a "green" State, Guyana counted on the full partnership of the international community.

116. The international community would have to transcend "business as usual" approaches. Even greater vigilance was needed in preserving and discharging the important functions of the Committee as a forum for the proactive consideration, consolidation and formulation of policies tailored to the pressing development challenges of the day.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*

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General Assembly
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**Second Committee**

**Summary record of the 4th meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 4 October 2016, at 10 a.m.

*Chair*: Mr. Djani (Indonesia)

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General debate (*continued*)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**General debate** (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Sekiguchi** (Japan) said that the Second Committee was expected to play a crucial role in promoting and accelerating the implementation of a series of landmark agreements adopted in 2015, from the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 to the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Discussions in the Committee should therefore be comprehensively aligned with those instruments in order to enhance the implementation efforts of Member States.

2. Following the regrettable failure of collective efforts to revitalize the work of the Second Committee earlier in 2016, three principles should guide the discussions at the current session: not reopening any agreements from 2015, completing the Committee's work within the mutually agreed deadlines, and excluding any programme budget implications that were not necessary, urgent or based on a clear mandate.

3. His country had three priorities for the upcoming deliberations. First, discussions on sustainable development should be well aligned with prior international agreements; Japan thus supported the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement and was accelerating its ratification process. Second, Japan stood ready to adopt and implement the New Urban Agenda as an action-oriented guideline for sustainable urbanization. Third, Japan was committed to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction as an integral part of sustainable development in all areas of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. His Government was also committed to the full implementation of the Sendai Framework and was willing to engage in a full-scale debate with all partners and stakeholders, including through the establishment and dissemination of World Tsunami Awareness Day.

4. Japan was similarly committed to the sustainable development of countries in special situations, including the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in Africa; it would thus continue to contribute to the full implementation of relevant strategies and programmes.

5. A paradigm shift had occurred with regard to sustainable development. It was therefore imperative for the United Nations Development Group to adjust accordingly, taking appropriate measures to function in a more effective and efficient manner. From that standpoint, discussions regarding the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should devise a reform plan with a broader perspective.

6. **Mr. Mahmadaminov** (Tajikistan) said that, following the historic milestones achieved in 2015, the international community must now work on its collective vision to guide efforts aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality, introducing and promoting sustainable models of production and consumption, protecting natural resources and their rational use, promoting sustainable economic growth and social integration, and creating dignified work opportunities for all during the following 15 years.

7. The path towards sustainable development would not be smooth; additional efforts should therefore be aimed at making the global environment conducive for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through effective regional cooperation. Political will should moreover be reinforced by adequate means of implementation, which would require the mobilization of additional financial resources, including the main component for financing development, official development assistance (ODA). International trade and investment, the main engines of productive growth, must be revitalized, while the transfer of innovative and ecologically sound technologies must be encouraged.

8. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda required a clear and transparent mechanism for its follow-up and review process. The international community must assist countries in special situations, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, which were otherwise starting implementation of the new development agenda under less favourable conditions.

9. Along with more than 50 other Member States, his country had collaborated within the Group of Friends of Water to promote water-related issues, develop a new global water agenda and raise awareness about that vital and limited resource. In August 2016, his country had hosted a high-level symposium on the theme "Sustainable Development Goal 6 and targets:

ensuring that no one is left behind in access to water and sanitation". The symposium had offered a platform for a focused and balanced discussion on policy measures, actions and means of implementation to accelerate implementation of Goal 6 and related targets. At the current session, his country would also put forward for consideration a draft resolution entitled International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028".

10. As climate change was a complex challenge that undermined international efforts for sustainable development, it would require a coordinated response that included both short- and long-term measures. It was essential to strengthen existing financial instruments and to create effective mechanisms for technology transfer and capacity development in developing countries, with a view to fostering adaptation to climate change.

11. **Ms. Quiel Murcia** (Panama) said that the international community must implement a universal agenda that focused on poverty eradication from a human rights perspective and facilitated socioeconomic growth while maintaining environmental awareness in both rural and urban areas. Nevertheless, the primary objective of the Second Committee should be to elaborate a road map for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the entry into force of the Paris Agreement.

12. The growing impact of climate change spared no community or nation; a significant number of Latin American and Caribbean countries had therefore committed to depositing their instruments of ratification of the Paris Agreement. Recognizing the important role played by tropical forests in combatting greenhouse gases, her country had made a number of national commitments to increase new and renewable sources of energy and to promote soil recovery and reforestation. It had also launched an international centre to ensure the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. Panama hoped to become a regional carbon hub with a carbon market to help combat deforestation and promote sustainable forestry management and international emissions trading.

13. As 60 per cent of the world's population would live in urban areas by 2030, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) was a crucial opportunity to elaborate a new model of urban development that integrated all the dimensions of sustainable development and promoted equity, well-being and shared prosperity.

14. The new quadrennial comprehensive policy review must ensure that the United Nations development system was endowed with the appropriate means of implementation to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The policy review should guide the necessary changes to be made, emphasizing the strengths of the system and overcoming its obstacles. One of the development system's continued challenges was assisting middle-income countries with sustainable development, in particular through the eradication of poverty and inequality, which particularly affected women, children and youth, indigenous peoples and people of African descent. Member States must therefore share their progress and best practices with regard to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. For its part, Panama would participate in the voluntary national review in 2017.

15. The challenge of financing the new development agenda was both individual and collective. Financial transparency and global governance must be the critical foundations of any attempt to end poverty and inequality. Current iniquitous economic practices were not the purview of a single country, but rather a consequence of a global system that hurt the most vulnerable populations. Her country was committed to strengthening transparency and combating corruption, money-laundering and terrorist financing. It also believed in fostering ethics for development and in promoting global governance.

16. **Mr. De Lara Rangel** (Mexico) said that the United Nations development system must adapt to the 2030 Agenda and modify its approach accordingly. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review was an opportunity to provide the development system with the necessary tools for the implementation and follow-up of that Agenda.

17. A new people-centred paradigm for sustainable peace had been developed, which focused primarily on sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and inequality, and access to justice and institutions as the most effective means of preventing conflict and improving lives. That long-term vision of sustainable

peace highlighted the need to give young people more and better economic opportunities, and also to promote equality and women's empowerment. Sustainable peace was inclusive and benefited societies as a whole. It fostered prosperity, helped to build functioning institutions that respected human rights, encouraged development and strengthened the rule of law. Sustainable peace and security required civil society to play an active role, alongside international organizations and local governments.

18. Following his country's initiative, the Group of Friends on Sustaining Peace had been established and now included 30 Member States working to encourage a cross-cutting paradigm shift within the United Nations system.

19. The multidimensional and cross-cutting focus on financing for development initially outlined in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development must continue to be used to identify different means and sources of resources, both financial and non-financial, in order to advance sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda. An environment that encouraged sustainable development must be created by integrating all development actors so as to foster effective cooperation and strengthen the means of implementation for the Sustainable Development Goals.

20. Home to a large part of the global poor, middle-income countries continued to face important obstacles to development. The criteria currently used to evaluate graduation from middle-income status, and thus ODA eligibility, did not adequately reflect the complex reality of development.

21. Countries must adopt development strategies that favoured economic growth in tandem with social well-being, environmental conservation and respect for the three pillars of sustainable development. Mexico supported efforts to achieve sustainable development in small island developing States, in particular through the promotion of national capacity-building for the preservation and sustainable use of natural resources and the use of clean technologies. As a megadiverse country, Mexico was committed to conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity; it would therefore host the thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity in December 2016.

22. **Mr. Madisa** (Botswana) said that Habitat III would be an opportunity to address new ways of dealing with the challenges of urbanization, while making cities more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. It was estimated that 70 per cent of the world's population would live in urban areas by 2050. The outcome document of Habitat III should help cities to cope with rapid increases in population and to ensure that the urban poor were not left behind.

23. Landlocked developing countries faced challenges such as high transport costs, dependence on a single or limited number of export commodities, remoteness and isolation from world markets. It was therefore imperative to address their concerns and fully implement the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024. However, the efforts of those countries would not be sufficient; greater international support was needed from all stakeholders, including transit partners. Trade was essential to help such countries achieve development goals, and the World Trade Organization (WTO) continued to play a critical role in integrating them in global trade. In particular, a specific work programme should be established to address the concerns and needs of landlocked developing countries with a view to increasing their participation in the multilateral trading system.

24. Climate change continued to impact all sectors of his country's economy, limiting agricultural production and increasing food insecurity, droughts and water stress. Botswana had therefore welcomed the historic adoption of the Paris Agreement, which it would ratify as soon as the internal processes were completed.

25. **Ms. Oh** Youngju (Republic of Korea) said that in implementing the historical milestones agreed in 2015, the United Nations must adopt an inclusive multilateral approach to support concrete actions. In the context of creating a more efficient and integrated United Nations system, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review would provide vital strategic guidance to the development system. The latest review should provide a clear and concise vision for the development system to deliver as one, with concrete proposals for strengthened collaboration at the entity and system-wide levels, as well as better linkages between development, peace and security, and humanitarian activities. Reform of the United Nations development

system should be based on an evaluation of the accomplishments, gaps and lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goal era and should be carried out in an orderly and incremental manner. In particular, reforms should focus on enabling the practical delivery of results on the ground.

26. It was crucial to establish an effective and efficient follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda. As a previous member of the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council, her country was ready to share its experiences and lessons learned in that regard. Quality data and national statistical capacity-building were also important for the follow-up and review process.

27. With a view to ratifying the Paris Agreement by the end of 2016, the Republic of Korea would set up a national plan on climate change to meet its 2030 greenhouse gas reduction target. It would also expand its collaboration with the Green Climate Fund to support the efforts of developing countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance climate adaption.

28. Most cities were experiencing deepening inequalities, deteriorating living conditions for the most vulnerable, excessive energy use, pollution and increasing climate change-related disasters. Habitat III should therefore work towards ensuring equitable, sustainable, inclusive and resilient cities through the adoption of the New Urban Agenda.

29. In order to promote the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the global level, implementation strategies, policy efforts and lessons of international cooperation must be shared in the Second Committee. Her country had the following priorities with regard to the implementation of the Goals: supporting marginalized and vulnerable populations; furthering the development of science, technology and innovation cooperation; capacity-building; promoting peaceful and inclusive societies based on good governance; and combating inequality both within and among countries. The Republic of Korea had launched several development cooperation initiatives and participated in numerous global partnerships to facilitate the implementation of the Goals.

30. **Mr. Olguín Cigarroa** (Chile) said that since the majority of Member States were or would soon become middle-income countries, it was necessary to strengthen the support provided to them by the United Nations system, given that they faced special challenges in developing public policies. Per capita income should not be the only criterion used to measure middle-income status.

31. The Paris Agreement had highlighted the importance of both mitigation and adaptation with regard to climate change and provided the tools to strengthen peace and eradicate poverty and inequality with the sustainability framework. The flexibility and hard work demonstrated by those who had helped to develop the New Urban Agenda, a well-balanced and consensual text, was welcome. Similarly, the appointment of the new Special Envoy on South-South Cooperation was a clear sign of the importance of South-South cooperation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, the establishment of a special office of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to the United Nations was a step in the right direction for global economic governance. That would enhance communication and send a powerful signal to other institutions regarding the need to develop greater linkages with the United Nations.

32. **Mr. Shilla** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that his country had integrated the Sustainable Development Goals into its national development plans and strategies; in fact, the Goals were part of the solution to many of the country's most urgent problems. They must be seen as having a bearing on other major world issues, such as migration and counter-terrorism, in order to remain the focus of political leaders and the global public.

33. The first high-level political forum on sustainable development had demonstrated that it could be a credible, trusted and constructive platform for countries to share their experiences, successes and challenges. However, it was important to provide strong incentives for countries to continue reporting on their progress. The follow-up and review process must help to build ownership of the 2030 Agenda, thus creating a virtuous cycle of implementation and review, including cross-country sharing of lessons and experiences. Ownership must be developed at all levels: globally, regionally, nationally, subnationally and among citizen groups.

34. Given the threat posed by climate change to development efforts, his country had prepared national adaptation plans and programmes. It also hoped that The Green Climate Fund and other partners would help to support national adaptation efforts, which were estimated at about $500 million annually, a sizeable feat for developing countries such as Tanzania. Early entry into force of the Paris Agreement was also vital.

35. It was crucial to combat land degradation and drought, which affected poorer communities and African countries the most and contributed to worsening forced migration flows and resource scarcity.

36. More intensive efforts were needed to enhance the coherence and consistency of the international financial system and to decisively tackle challenges facing the global economy. Furthermore, long-term financing would be essential to achieve the 2030 Agenda, including international private financial flows towards developing countries such as foreign direct investment (FDI).

37. In order for the least developed countries to become globally competitive in the evolving knowledge economy, it was necessary to address their science, technology and innovation challenges. The establishment of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries was therefore welcome. Moreover, access to that facility should be maintained for a period of at least five years after the date of graduation, as an abrupt cut in assistance could cause new graduates to fall back.

38. **Mr. Eleyatt** (Mauritania) said that one year after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda was a good time to take stock of challenges and consider ways of avoiding a repeat of past disappointments. Creating an environment conducive to inclusive economic growth required the optimal use of resources and an international system based on partnership and mutual respect.

39. His country had instituted an inclusive national programme with a specific timetable for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Poverty and youth unemployment had been reduced, and individual income had increased. As a result of the Government's policy of positive discrimination, women had become leaders in political and social life and were active in sectors that had previously been the exclusive province of men. The recently established National Solidarity Agency was providing education and health services for marginalized groups across the country, as well as making funding available for income-generating projects. Mauritania had also carried out fundamental reforms to make its judicial system more independent and accessible, promote good governance, increase transparency and root out corruption. The Government had opened the door to wider participation by political parties, trade unions and civil society organizations.

40. Around the world, conflict and civil war had increased the threat of terrorism. His Government had gone beyond a one-dimensional military response and employed a variety of economic, social and cultural approaches to combating radicalism and extremism. Mauritania and several of its neighbours in the Sahel had established development programmes to respond to people's needs and aspirations before they turned to terrorist violence. He hoped that the international community appreciated the importance of such efforts in what was one of the world's poorest and most fragile regions, and expressed appreciation for regional and international support for the Sahel region, including the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel.

41. Climate change posed particular challenges to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. His country had launched policies to limit desertification and sand dune advance, and he urged all parties to fulfil their pledges made in that respect in the context of the Paris Agreement. He also urged Habitat III participants to ensure that the New Urban Agenda would strike a balance between the aspirations of urban and rural areas.

42. **Mr. Al Hayani** (Iraq) said that the market economy remained the prevailing model for promoting optimal resource use, wealth generation and technological innovation. However, an unregulated market economy could lead to resource depletion, environmental pollution and disruptive economic crises. Inclusive economic growth should take into account the need for sustainable use of natural resources. His country was instituting structural reforms and macroeconomic policies to bolster public revenues while allowing the private sector to push forward economic and social development despite the steep decline in oil prices.

43. WTO needed to ensure equal trade opportunities for developing countries by easing membership conditions for countries with observer status. A genuine partnership between developed and developing States was essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, small- and medium-sized companies needed financing and technology transfer to help them gain access to global markets. Developed countries should honour their commitments under the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. ODA was especially important for infrastructure reconstruction in countries decimated by war and terrorism.

44. His Government was working on a new development plan for the 2018-2022 period, even in the face of the challenges posed by the decline in oil prices, unprecedented displacement and the war that Iraq was fighting on behalf of the entire world against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Expressing gratitude to friendly States for the assistance they had provided to address the challenges created by the millions of Iraqi refugees who had been displaced from their homes and livelihoods, he said that the United Nations should continue to play a major role in helping Iraq confront its humanitarian crises, and also in eliminating gaps in the international system that were being exploited to finance terrorism.

45. **Mr. Peña** (Paraguay) said that the eradication of poverty, including extreme poverty, was the greatest challenge facing the international community and was essential for sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda should be implemented consistently and synergistically with other international agendas, programmes and instruments, such as the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries. His country was committed to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and to addressing the issue of financing and the creation of a conducive environment for sustainable development at all levels.

46. The Global Infrastructure Forum was essential and brought together multilateral banks and other development partners to enhance global infrastructure. Similarly, the implementation of the Sendai Framework was important in disaster-prone developing countries, especially countries in special situations, with an emphasis on landlocked developing countries, which required special assistance because of their greater vulnerability. Habitat III would also be key to strengthening the global political commitment to the sustainable development of peoples, cities and other human settlements.

47. The Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 should be made more coherent and synergistic with other international agendas, as well as the Paris Agreement. States Members of the United Nations should increase their support for landlocked developing countries in the work of the Second Committee as part of a revitalized global alliance striving to leave no one behind.

48. ODA was key to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Investment in infrastructure, connectivity and capacity-building was essential. International trade was the engine of economic growth and development, poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable development. States Members of the United Nations should therefore follow his country's example and immediately ratify trade facilitation agreements within the WTO framework.

49. Paraguay had a national development plan focused on poverty reduction, social development, inclusive economic growth, equal opportunities and environmental sustainability. It had also established an inter-institutional coordination committee to implement, follow up on and monitor international commitments under the 2030 Agenda. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review should be in line with the 2030 Agenda and devote particular attention to countries in special situations, especially landlocked developing countries. During the current session of the General Assembly, the Second Committee would face major challenges in its quest to leave no one behind.

50. **Ms. Shekriladze** (Georgia) said that discussions on how to make the work of the Committee more efficient should continue. The 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement had all been major achievements, and her delegation was looking forward to the adoption of the New Urban Agenda under Habitat III. During the high-level political forum held in July 2016, her country, along with other participants, had presented its

first voluntary national review. In conjunction with Estonia, the Republic of Korea and the United Nations Development Programme, Georgia had organized a special high-level event on open governance and reform of public administration, on the margins of the current session of the General Assembly. Other events aimed at sharing good practices would be organized during the year. The upcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review would be crucial for the United Nations development system.

51. In the face of a considerable financing gap, implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals would be dependent on innovative financing alternatives to supplement domestic flows, FDI and ODA. Her country was an active participant in the global partnership to develop innovative financing. For example, the Solidarity Fund of Georgia, in conjunction with the United Nations Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Georgia, had hosted the International Forum on Solidarity and Innovative Financing in Tbilisi in December 2015. The recommendations emerging from that meeting had been presented at a high-level event organized by Georgia and France on the margins of the current session of the General Assembly.

52. **Ms. Moldoisaeva** (Kyrgyzstan) reiterated her country's support for the 2030 Agenda and said that Kyrgyzstan had already created a committee to implement and monitor the Sustainable Development Goals, with plans for further review by both the parliament and the President's Council on Sustainable Development. The inclusion in the Goals of the needs of mountainous landlocked countries such as Kyrgyzstan was welcome.

53. Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries would also be critical, as would a greater role for multilateral trade and aid for trade, services and market access. The membership of Kyrgyzstan in the Eurasian Economic Commission provided access to a market of 180 million people; however, despite plans for new regional north-south transport systems, regional tariffs and non-tariff barriers continued to hamper trade and had given rise to unilateral border closures.

54. With regard to the environment, Kyrgyzstan had signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and would move towards ratification in the near future. Her country had already experienced natural disasters and climate-related degradation of its unique mountain ecosystem, with negative social consequences and tangible annual economic damage estimated at $35 million. Forecasts suggested a potential 30 to 40 per cent reduction in her country's total glacial surface by 2025, which would reduce water flow. That prediction had led it to call for joint measures to preserve glaciers in upstream countries.

55. Endangered species had also been affected. The snow leopard population had been particularly hard hit, and Kyrgyzstan was preparing, in 2017, to host the second global forum to reassess the situation and adopt specific measures to protect that animal from extinction.

56. Finally, she urged the global community to address the large number of uranium storage sites in her region, a problem that demanded sustained attention and follow-up to General Assembly resolution 68/218, entitled "The role of the international community in averting the radiation threat in Central Asia".

57. **Mr. Simpson** (Australia) said that the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda were significant in their integrated approach and commitment to innovative financing and partnership models. The Committee needed to change the way it operated in order to remain relevant. His delegation looked forward to a constructive session with consensus outcomes achieved within set time frames. He stressed that early warning should be provided on resolutions with possible budgetary implications, and he urged delegates to adhere to deadlines, negotiate in good faith and avoid wasting time on already-agreed issues. In particular, the resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review would require functional and efficient negotiating space.

58. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) reiterated his new Government's support for the 2030 Agenda, as expressed recently by the President of Peru at the annual general debate of the General Assembly. Human dignity remained the core value of the Organization's efforts. In that context, development signified inclusion, whose full attainment required democratic governance as well as respect for human rights and the

rule of law, along with recognition and protection of cultural diversity.

59. During the Committee's current session his country would be focused on implementation of the global strategy for disaster reduction, since it was particularly vulnerable in that regard. While Peru had recently made great strides in economic growth and poverty reduction, its susceptibility to natural disasters and the impact of climate change could threaten its progress.

60. His delegation would therefore devote particular attention to the sustainable development of mountainous regions. Over the previous 15 years, Peru had reduced poverty levels from one half to one quarter of its population. However, mountain dwellers continued to experience high poverty rates and middle-income countries such as Peru lacked the means to address the pressing challenges. International cooperation would be necessary to meet the needs of the most vulnerable first.

61. In consultation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Peru would continue to promote an international day of gastronomy, in order to showcase the catalytic role of culture for sustainable development. Furthermore, it would develop links across the Sustainable Development Goals related, inter alia, to eradicating hunger, promoting food security and sustainable agriculture, achieving healthy lifestyles and fostering sustainable patterns of production and consumption.

62. Finally, his country would actively support innovative initiatives to achieve universal access to water and water purification. The President of Peru had recently joined the High-level Panel on Water, for example, and Peru supported the creation of a new International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018-2028, which would contribute to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 6.

63. **Mr. Bultrikov** (Kazakhstan) said that taken together, the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Framework signalled a paradigm shift in the approach to development that demanded moral and ethical engagement. Delegates needed to place themselves in the shoes of the most marginalized and vulnerable. Full participation by women and youth would be the key to success. Primary responsibility for implementation lay with national Governments. His country already had experiences to share in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals under its Kazakhstan 2050 strategy and its national plan for transition to a green economy. It was important to identify those sectors of the population that were difficult to reach. Triggers for conflict and tension also needed to be addressed, and Member States should therefore divert 1 per cent of their military budgets to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Fund.

64. Central Asian countries needed international support to tackle environmental challenges. Kazakhstan was working with the World Bank to restore the northern portion of the Aral Sea and with the United Nations to rehabilitate the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site.

65. Small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries needed extra support from the international community, and he urged implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries. His country had worked with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on a project for the installation of biogas systems in several Pacific small island developing States.

66. In April 2016, Kazakhstan had hosted the inaugural session of the Islamic Organization for Food Security, which had been established by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation at the initiative of Kazakhstan.

67. Kazakhstan had already commenced its transition to a low-carbon economy. It supported carbon pricing and would ratify the Paris Agreement by the end of 2016. It planned to host EXPO-2017 in Astana on the future of energy.

68. **Mr. Abuobeida** (Sudan) said that his country had established a high-level national mechanism to implement the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on poverty eradication. Developing countries faced unique challenges that could only be met with the help of global partnerships, South-South cooperation and

triangular cooperation. The international community should implement debt-cancellation initiatives and create an anti-shock mechanism to cushion the impact of global fluctuations. Special consideration needed to be given to countries in post-conflict situations, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Economic sanctions and coercive measures against certain developing States should be eliminated. For his country, external foreign debt constituted a major stumbling block to deriving full benefit from ODA and other forms of assistance, even though the Sudan qualified for aid under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative.

69. For developing countries, achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals would require the mobilization of additional resources, as well as capacity-building, technology transfer and access to global markets. Obstacles to WTO membership must be removed so that developing countries could exploit trade as an engine of development. In recent years, South-South cooperation had proven an effective tool for building capacities in the areas of health, education, the environment, trade and investment. However, South-South cooperation should not be a substitute for North-South and triangular cooperation.

70. **Mr. Jo** Tong Hyon (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that in order to successfully implement the Sustainable Development Goals, each Member State's individual right to development should be respected. The international environment for development was being severely undermined as a result of coercive economic measures such as sanctions, blockades and pressure, imposed by a few specific countries against others.

71. The 2030 Agenda called for the full respect of territorial integrity, permanent sovereignty over resources and economic activities, and the prohibition of unilateral actions violating the Charter of the United Nations. Arbitrary and hostile political, military and economic pressures and threats by illegal authorities must end. A new international order of finance, trade and economy should be established. The new order, in which each country would implement the Goals in accordance with its own specific conditions and capacities, would better reflect current realities wherein the monopolistic positions of a few countries in international financial organizations, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and WTO, could no longer be tolerated. The representation of the developing countries, including the emerging economies, should be ensured.

72. The developed countries, which had pledged financial and technical support, should fulfil those commitments without delay, and more attention should be given to the sustainable development of the least developed countries, the landlocked and small island developing States, and all States and peoples under foreign occupation or in conflict. Under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Jong Un, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was vigorously building socialist economic power and prioritizing science and technology on the basis of its own efforts, technologies and resources. The country's five-year strategy for national economic development for 2016-2020 aimed to revitalize economic sectors, including energy, agriculture, land and environmental administration, in order to lay a foundation for sustainable economic growth.

73. His country faced serious threats in the form of the prospect of nuclear war as well as economic sanctions and blockades sustained by the United States of America. Even so, the people of his country would continue to uphold the principle of self-development, and his Government would strive to replace the existing order with a new and justified international economic order, and contribute to international efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

74. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia) said that his country's national development strategy reflected its commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries. In particular, the Sustainable Development Vision recently adopted by Mongolia's parliament envisaged the eradication of poverty by 2030, and contained measures to reduce income inequality, improve citizens' quality of life and ensure ecological balance and green development.

75. Landlocked developing countries, whose meagre share of global trade consisted primarily of commodity exports, were among the hardest hit by economic fluctuations, shortages and climate change. In Mongolia in particular, climate-related desertification

and soil erosion were being exacerbated by herding and farming practices, and water shortages constituted a threat not only to agriculture but also to the vital mining sector.

76. With respect to the Paris Agreement, Mongolia had recently deposited its instrument of ratification with the United Nations Secretariat. Furthermore, as a country experiencing rapid urbanization, Mongolia looked forward to a successful Habitat III in Quito and wished to stress that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should take into account the special needs of landlocked developing countries.

77. **Mr. Ramírez Carreño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, said that in July 2016 his country had presented its zero poverty plan for 2019 as part of its overall national development plan for 2013-2019. He reiterated his nation's commitment to reducing its levels of exclusion and continuing to seek greater equality for its people, in line with the 2030 Agenda. The priority was to give greater power to the people by continuing to dismantle the mechanisms and categories of capitalism, an unjust system that engendered poverty.

78. Multilateral trade, without protectionism and based on special and differential treatment that guaranteed free access to markets, was essential to ensure sustained growth in global commerce and equal opportunity for developing nations. The PetroCaribe programme, through which his country supplied 40 per cent of the energy needs of the 18 signatory nations of the Declaration of the fifth Extraordinary Summit of PetroCaribe, held in Maracaibo, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 13 July 2008, was a good example of such trade.

79. Based on the need for a new economic system that would promote development on the basis of peace, justice, complementarity and solidarity, his country would continue to lobby for reform of the international financial architecture, which remained extremely unfair with respect to the poorest nations. It was important to work for the democratization of the decision-making mechanisms of those financial entities in order to ensure greater participation by developing countries in them.

80. The sovereign management of natural resources was a crucial element in achieving fair economic development. It was not acceptable for large transnational companies to define the fate of the world by appropriating resources to the detriment not only of those most in need but also of the environment. Equally unacceptable were unilateral measures that contravened international law and the Charter of the United Nations by impeding economic and social progress, especially that of developing nations.

81. As a member of the Security Council, his country had witnessed first-hand the horror of war and the effects of conflict, in particular in the Middle East and Africa. He wondered how countries such as Iraq, Syria and Yemen could advance in the face of interference by outside actors and how the Palestinian people and the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip could achieve sustainable development without an end to colonialism and domination. The United Nations should work beyond institutional boundaries to address complex problems without undermining sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and with respect for the existence of different models of development.

82. **Mr. Erciyes** (Turkey) said that by presenting its voluntary national review as part of the high-level political forum in July, Turkey had demonstrated its commitment to the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, by holding the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 in Antalya from 27 to 29 May 2016, his country had advanced the breakthroughs of both the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, leading to a political declaration that would provide a road map for the least developed countries and their development partners by 2020.

83. Reaffirming his nation's commitment to operationalizing the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries by the end of 2016, he recalled that Turkey was a reliable donor country whose assistance to least developed countries had exceeded $1.5 billion over the previous five years.

84. Humanitarian assistance was also a major commitment for his country, which was now home to three million refugees, the largest such population in the world. Turkey had spent more than $12 billion in assistance to Syrian refugees, while receiving only $512 million. Although properly managed migration

could contribute to sustainable development, progress could be made only through shared sustainable strategies. In that regard, his country welcomed the recent New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

85. The Paris Agreement was a milestone whose ultimate success depended on adequate financial support and technology transfer. He particularly stressed the importance of the goals on sanitation and water, including water governance, as critical for peace and stability, along with the need for inclusivity and transparency in the discussion of a new global water architecture.

86. **Mr. Wu** Haitao (China) said that the current session of the General Assembly and the Second Committee should focus on several aspects under the theme "The Sustainable Development Goals: A universal push to transform our world".

87. First, a clear direction and priorities should be set to advance economic, social and environmental development. Countries should be encouraged to incorporate the 2030 Agenda into their national development strategies according to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as well as their specific conditions and stages of development. Eliminating poverty and hunger should be the top priority. Countries should actively implement strategies geared towards innovation-driven development, boosts in economic growth, advances in industrialization, and improvements in social security and services. Everyone should be able to participate in development and share its benefits.

88. Second, the international community should resolve to cooperate in a mutually beneficial manner and optimize global development partnerships. Since North-South cooperation continued to be the main channel for development cooperation, developed countries should honour their ODA commitments and increase support to developing countries, especially African countries, least developed countries and small island developing States, and help them to enhance their capacities. For their part, developing countries should stand together, assist one another, and deepen South-South cooperation. Stakeholders such as the private sector and civil society should also be encouraged to advance the cause of international development.

89. Third, the international community should improve global economic governance and create an international environment enabling development. On the basis of the principles of equality, openness, cooperation and communal benefit, the international community should establish global governance arrangements that were equitable and effective for finance, open and transparent for trade and investment, green and low-carbon for energy, and inclusive and interconnected for development. An open world economy should be fostered, support should be lent to developing countries for their equal participation in global economic governance, and their representation and voices should be amplified. Furthermore, developing countries should be assisted in their integration into global production and value chains, and benefit fully from them. The United Nations should also be supported in its central role in coordinating and implementing the 2030 Agenda.

90. Fourth, awareness of the community of shared future should be fostered, and development challenges should be tackled together. Countries should strengthen communication and coordination in macroeconomic policy so as to avoid a negative spillover effect. All parties should uphold the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, innovate and strengthen actions to address climate change, and advocate for the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement. His delegation looked forward to the action-oriented New Urban Agenda of Habitat III, which would revitalize international cooperation in the field of sustainable urban development.

91. Since China had reformed and opened up, its economy had continued to grow rapidly and was now the second largest in the world. Faced with the complexities of a weak world economic recovery, China had taken measures to adapt to a "new normal" of economic development. China, which would continue to expand its reforms, to upgrade its economic structures and to add new drivers of economic and social development, was committed to its own development while providing more opportunities for the world.

92. China was seamlessly integrating the 2030 Agenda into its medium- and long-term development plans, such as the thirteenth Five-Year Plan, and the Government had approved and issued the National Plan

for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

93. China had made earnest efforts to implement a series of important initiatives announced by President Xi Jinping at the summits commemorating the seventieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations. Those included deepening South-South cooperation and providing as much support and assistance as possible to developing countries. The China-United Nations Peace and Development Fund and the Assistance Fund for South-South Cooperation would be in operation by the end of 2016. The Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development had welcomed its first class of students, and there had been steady progress in the implementation of cooperative projects with developing countries in the areas of poverty reduction, agriculture and trade facilitation.

94. At the high-level segment of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, Premier Li Keqiang had engaged in thematic discussions with the heads of relevant international organizations regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and had announced that the total annual contribution of China to the relevant United Nations development institutions would be $100 million more than its 2015 contribution.

95. China had also held the presidency of the Group of 20 in 2016. The Hangzhou Summit, held under the auspices of the Group of 20, had made innovation a core outcome for the first time and prioritized development in the global macro-policy framework. The Summit had also promoted collective action in support of industrialization in African and least developed countries, and had resulted in a series of important action plans and other outcome documents.

96. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco) said that, given the need to align the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with the key documents adopted in 2015, in particular the Paris Agreement, it would be crucial to develop a new long-term strategy concerning the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycle.

97. Following consultations at the ministerial and other levels, including with civil society, Morocco had joined other countries at the high-level political forum in July 2016 to present its plan for integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into its vision for the future, based on national priorities. Those Goals had been established within the socioeconomic framework of the new national Constitution, his country's programme of advanced regionalization and the social and institutional reforms already underway since 2000.

98. Morocco had adopted a National Charter on the Environment and Sustainable Development with a view to strengthening the relevant institutional and legal frameworks, promoting sustainable modes of production and consumption and developing renewable energy sources. Such reforms, combined with national investment in renewable energy, had led to Morocco being ranked within the top 10 countries worldwide according to the Climate Change Performance Index.

99. With respect to South-South cooperation, Morocco would continue to work on regional and subregional integration. It was important, however, for the international community to reframe its cooperation to favour Africa and countries with low and middle incomes by providing targeted assistance that would increase the participation of such countries in global governance, which should not remain the province of a narrow group of decision-makers.

100. Climate change was a major obstacle to the pursuit of sustainable development by developing countries. Holding the presidency of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Marrakesh from 7 to 18 November 2016, Morocco would focus on developing an action plan that would place developing countries at the heart of efforts to implement the Paris Agreement. Building on the initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture, African leaders at a summit held in Marrakesh on 29 and 30 September, had already issued a declaration supporting the efforts of African nations to stem the negative effects of climate change on agriculture.

101. **Ms. Khaing** (Myanmar) said that, in the light of the 2030 Agenda and other landmark agreements such as the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement, Myanmar had designed its national economic and development policy with a view to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, with poverty alleviation as an overarching objective. Her country would be focusing on enhancing connectivity, promoting micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, fostering a sustainable environment, agricultural

development and food security, and improving health and education.

102. Building nationwide peace and security through initiatives such as the ongoing Panglong Peace Conference and combating the HIV pandemic and antimicrobial resistance, both major health threats that could undermine development, were also top priorities for Myanmar.

103. Given the structural challenges that faced developing countries, which entailed low growth and vulnerabilities caused by climate change, disease outbreaks, conflicts and poor resilience, ODA would remain critical to the ability of such countries to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. In that context, she stressed the importance of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review that would take place during the current session. The review should strengthen the United Nations development system and ultimately lead developing countries to deliver the Goals effectively and thus narrow the development divide among Member States.

104. **Mr. Mendoza-García** (Costa Rica) said that the current session coincided with the first anniversary of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, which represented a milestone in international diplomatic negotiations and would define the work of the Second Committee until 2030. The critical remaining task was now implementation, which would require enhanced international cooperation to ensure that developing countries would be able to achieve sustainable development. Poverty eradication was the primary goal and efforts should therefore be focused on areas with populations in poverty, regardless of their geographical location. All sectors and actors should be mobilized through a process that would demand absolute transparency and accountability from all concerned stakeholders, especially those that could undermine the integrity of the Organization.

105. The 2030 Agenda could not progress without taking into account the needs of all Member States, including middle-income countries, which comprised the majority within the Organization but were also home to the greatest number of people living in poverty. In that regard, Costa Rica welcomed the one-day meeting hosted in May 2016 by the Economic and Social Council within the framework of its dialogue on the long-term positioning of the United Nations development system. The meeting had highlighted many of the reasons why the 2030 Agenda would benefit from strengthened cooperation among middle-income countries.

106. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review represented an important framework for establishing progress benchmarks that transcended income criteria and it provided a mechanism for strategic cooperation with middle-income countries. At the same time, development challenges related to infrastructure, sovereign debt, trade, financing for development, energy and strengthened South-South and triangular cooperation must be addressed to ensure that no country would be left behind.

107. The Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica had ratified the Paris Agreement and the work of the Second Committee should henceforth be geared towards harnessing the enormous political will that had made that historic agreement possible.

108. Sustainable development had become a universally acknowledged concept that would serve as the basis for future agreements. Striking an appropriate balance among its three dimensions — social, economic and environmental — would play a crucial part in defining national development strategies and the mechanisms for international cooperation that would ensure their success.

109. There was no time for complacency, however. Governments needed to take action to prevent a global temperature rise of more than 1.5 degrees. Otherwise, the international community would have to live with the consequences, including more natural disasters and migrant crises. That was not an option.

110. **Mr. Daunivalu** (Fiji) said that his country looked forward to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, which would be critical to ensure adequate resources for implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, especially in the light of its complementary role to the 2030 Agenda. Partnerships were essential for addressing the development challenges facing the world today.

111. With respect to climate change, he reiterated the call recently made at the annual general debate of the General Assembly by the Secretary-General and world leaders, including the Prime Minister of Fiji, for countries that had yet to ratify the Paris Agreement to

do so at the earliest opportunity. Fiji had first-hand knowledge of the adverse impact of climate change and urged the Committee to focus its deliberations on ways to create durable solutions that would tackle its multidimensional threats.

112. **Mr. Andambi** (Kenya), welcoming the timely discussions under way within the Second Committee, said that Kenya had already mainstreamed the Sustainable Development Goals into its national development priorities and plans and looked forward to presenting its voluntary report on implementation shortly. Implementation, specifically under Goal 17, which covered the mobilization of domestic resources, was critical to achieving all the Goals. Kenya was prepared to underwrite more than 90 per cent of its recurrent commitment.

113. ODA was also crucial as a complement to domestic resources. Kenya would continue to emphasize concessional borrowing, although that window had narrowed since his country had been classified as a middle-income country. Agriculture remained the country's primary source of livelihood, employing some 60 per cent of the population and accounting for one quarter of its gross domestic product.

114. However, without reliable data it was difficult to pinpoint the location of the most marginal portions of the population. There was an urgent need for quality, reliable and timely disaggregated data, which could be obtained by strengthening the country's statistical capacities and geospatial information systems. However, despite specific national initiatives such as its National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System, which had been replicated throughout the country at subnational levels, Kenya remained weak in key institutional sectors and across ministries. Improved data were vital to ensure that Kenya would be able to meet both existing and future needs.

115. His country looked forward to the next high-level meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, to be held in Nairobi from 28 November to 1 December 2016, which would be the first such meeting following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.

116. Stakeholder participation was a key element in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Similarly, citizen participation was a central part of the Kenyan system of governance, as enshrined in the national Constitution, and contributed to strengthening governance and increasing accountability, inclusivity and ownership.

117. **Mr. Mebarki** (Algeria) said that the means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda needed to take into account the most vulnerable populations in Africa and around the world, and in particular peoples deprived of access to their natural resources by colonial occupation.

118. After its success in implementing the Millennium Development Goals, Algeria had commenced implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals immediately upon their adoption. However, economic forecasts were particularly bad for commodity-exporting countries. The report on economic development in Africa published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in July 2016 had indicated that financing the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa could require investments of up to $1 trillion, with much of that going to infrastructure in a continent where the cost of transportation was three times higher than in Asia. The World Bank was predicting a decline in FDI and ODA and also a rise in protectionist sentiment, all of which could undermine progress on poverty reduction.

119. When it came to innovative methods of financing, his country had had some success with issuing bonds. However, that sort of measure would not work for low-income countries, and was no substitute for ODA and regular financing provided by a reformed, democratic and inclusive global financial system.

120. International partnerships required a minimum level of solidarity among peoples. South-South cooperation had achieved some success, but would not succeed unless it was supplemented by North-South cooperation focused on capacity-building and technology transfer.

121. Lastly, developed countries needed to change their patterns of excess consumption, which imposed on developing countries an industrial system that focused exclusively on reduced costs and low prices.

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*

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## Second Committee

**Summary record of the 5th meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 4 October 2016, at 3 p.m.

*Chair*: Mr. Díaz de la Guardia (Vice-Chair) (Spain)
*later*: Mr. Djani (Chair) (Indonesia)

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General debate *(continued)*

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*In the absence of Mr. Djani (Indonesia), Mr. Diaz de la Guardia (Spain), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

**General debate** (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Thammavongsa** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the Sustainable Development Goals had been mainstreamed into the eighth five-year national socioeconomic development plan of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, adopted in April 2016. In addition, efforts to clear unexploded ordnance, which remained a major obstacle to people's livelihoods and national development, had been carried over from the Millennium Development Goals to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In September, the Prime Minister and the Secretary-General had met in Vientiane and officially launched a programme to continue that work.

2. Enhanced partnership was extremely important to mobilize sufficient resources to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system should support the special development needs and priorities of countries in special situations. Contributions from the international community, including official development assistance (ODA), had done much to support his Government's efforts to eradicate poverty and graduate from least developed country status.

3. The Lao People's Democratic Republic had been among the first countries to ratify the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and hoped that it would enter into force by the end of 2016.

4. **Ms. Abdoullah** (Malaysia) said that the threat of another economic crisis loomed, and such a crisis would particularly affect the smaller economies. International financial regulation should be strengthened. There should be monitoring and supervision, with effective fiscal measures put in place. Malaysia called for a redoubling of efforts to aid countries in special situations.

5. Malaysia reaffirmed the vital importance of South-South cooperation. Such cooperation should not be viewed as a substitute for North-South cooperation, but rather as a complement to it.

6. Middle-income countries had achieved substantial progress in realizing the Millennium Development Goals. Those gains should be consolidated so that those countries did not experience setbacks. The lack of resources must be addressed to ensure progress on the 2030 Agenda. Effective redistributive policies and support for social services were needed to continue addressing poverty.

7. In Malaysia, a well-calibrated redistributive policy that promoted growth and development had been critical to drive the economy forward. Sound environmental policies were also a part of Malaysia's approach to sustainability. The voluntary national reviews under the high-level political forum on sustainable development had enabled sharing of experiences and lessons learned with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals. Malaysia therefore wished to participate in the 2017 voluntary national review to share its progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

8. **Mr. Wafy** (Niger), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda was essential for the African continent, and for developing countries as a whole. The current session of the Committee was an important platform and tool for ensuring that the implementation mechanisms were made more efficient. Africa's priorities were informed by Agenda 2063, the continent's strategic framework for socioeconomic transformation, which built on and sought to accelerate the implementation of past and existing initiatives for growth and sustainable development, including the fulfilment of the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals.

9. No aspect of the Sustainable Development Goals would be realized without the requisite means of implementation. It was therefore important for ODA commitments to be fulfilled; for the illicit flow of funds and resources out of Africa to be curbed; for equitable and affordable access to information and communications technology to be ensured; and for restrictive trade measures to be replaced by a strong multilateral trading system.

10. Africa, which had barely contributed to climate change, was suffering greatly from its adverse impacts, which were threatening to undermine the continent's development gains. It was experiencing such consequences as drought, flooding and the spread of climate-sensitive diseases, climate-induced displacement and loss of ecosystem and biodiversity, and increasing temperatures. The Group of African States therefore looked forward to the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and hoped that it would provide further opportunities to accelerate efforts to curb the negative effects of climate change.

11. **Mr. Zamora Rivas** (El Salvador) said that implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda must be accelerated, as they would do much to determine future prosperity. International solidarity and cooperation were key to economic growth. A common framework for trade and technology transfer was needed to address the economic crisis, speed up recovery and build more inclusive societies. The United Nations must address the architecture of the international financial and trade system, which was designed to favour developed countries and punish the less developed countries.

12. Financing for development was crucial to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; ODA had a central role in that regard.

13. The term 'middle-income countries' must be redefined to factor in structural imbalances, which were not reflected in per capita income figures, where income was averaged across populations. The new focus on extreme inequality as a brake on sustainable development was a major step forward that could no longer be ignored in country classifications. Other elements must also be considered, such as poverty, investment, savings, productivity, innovation, education, gender and the environment. There must be greater awareness of the changing needs of societies that were evolving at different levels.

14. The global economic governance structures, and in particular the international financial and monetary system, must be reformed in order to ensure greater efficiency and coordination, through increased United Nations participation and alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. The main objective of the reforms should be to establish democracy and equality as the guiding principles of governance and to provide for stronger participation by developing countries in the work of the Bretton Woods institutions, which was essential to strengthen the legitimacy and effectiveness of those institutions.

15. Sovereign debt must be restructured at the multilateral level, since the problem affected a very large number of countries. It was important to address the lack of international standards for sovereign debt restructuring and the urgent need for an appropriate response to claims of non-repayment of debt. El Salvador and Bolivia would be co-hosting a workshop on sovereign debt vulnerabilities and the possibility of a new debt renegotiation mechanism based on General Assembly processes, to take place on 31 October 2016. Progress on those fronts would contribute to making the world economy healthier, fairer and more developed.

16. El Salvador welcomed the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which would protect the safety, dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their status, and acknowledged the valuable contributions of migrant workers to their countries of origin, particularly in the form of remittances, and to transit and destination countries.

17. **Mr. Sevilla Borja** (Ecuador) said that the need for structural changes in the global economy and international financial system was related to developing countries' difficulties in attaining sustainable development. It was essential for the developed countries to meet their commitment of contributing 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP) to ODA. The excesses of the international financial system had widened the inequality gap worldwide. Dialogue was needed to increase transparency, regulation and good governance in the international financial system, and thereby promote international peace and stability.

18. Tax systems were a development tool that could be put to work to eradicate poverty and achieve a better distribution of income and wealth within and across countries, and eliminate illegal forms of accumulation of wealth based on speculative practices and profits derived from environmental degradation. Tax evasion, illegal financial flows and tax havens constituted a

common challenge which must be confronted. In Ecuador, 30 per cent of GDP was concealed in tax havens. Many projects to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality could be implemented if the tax income from those funds could be made available. A referendum to be held in 2017 would determine the degree of popular support for a measure to prohibit the use of tax havens by all public servants, including those who were popularly elected.

19. While development cooperation was beneficial, it was a drop in an ocean of injustice, given the massive quantity of uncollected resources. Development was a political issue. Member States should create a democratic, binding intergovernmental body for discussion of tax matters, in order to eliminate tax havens.

20. The Ecuadoran development model was based on the concept of "buen vivir," an ancestral vision of the cosmos that sought to build a society based on harmony among human beings and between humans and nature. The model prioritized the human being over capital, and satisfying the basic needs of the majority over the excesses of the unregulated market. Development models based on the prevailing production and consumption patterns, that failed to recognize environmental limits and fostered unlimited economic growth and the accumulation of wealth, were not sustainable. It was ironic that the free movement of goods and capital was supported in the interest of generating maximum profits while the free movement of people in search of decent work was penalized; that view was unsustainable and intolerable from an ethical standpoint.

21. Ecuador had proposed the establishment of an international environmental court of justice to penalize violations of the rights of nature and establish obligations with regard to environmental debt and consumption of environmental goods. It made no sense for courts to put countries on trial for measures supposedly detrimental to the investments of large multinational firms, while at the same time there were no courts to try entities that damaged the environment. The notion that the State was the sole entity that could violate human rights must be set aside, since violations were committed by other international actors, particularly transnational corporations. Ecuador had suffered violations at the hand of a non-State actor when Chevron Texaco had contaminated rivers, forests and the soil in the Amazon region, causing illness and death.

22. **Mr. Dingha** (Congo) said that during the first session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development there had been reference to the difficulties and challenges countries faced as they undertook to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. The Committee should build on the Forum's recommendations and should pay special attention to the quadrennial comprehensive policy review in order to strengthen the operational capacities of the United Nations development system as the Goals were being implemented. Effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda would require strengthened partnerships.

23. The Congo was taking ownership of the 2030 Agenda by launching a nationwide awareness campaign on the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of developing a national implementation strategy and by establishing a programme to reduce carbon emissions resulting from land degradation and deforestation. To that end, his Government was seeking international support for technology transfer and capacity-building.

24. The Congo had signed the Paris Agreement earlier in the year, and called upon States to accelerate ratification of the Agreement with a view to its entry into force in the very near future. In light of the upcoming twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Congo urged the Committee to promote consolidation of the gains achieved under the Paris Agreement.

25. **Mr. Efameabdal** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that the Committee should play a major role in realizing the shared vision embodied in the 2030 Agenda and in the review of its implementation, in order to make any necessary corrections and ensure the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

26. Taking into account the lessons learnt from the efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals, his Government had chosen to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into its national strategic development plan. The plan was a framework for the coordination of policies and actions, which took

into account climate change issues, the priorities of Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the goal of raising the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the level of a middle-income country by 2021, based on agricultural reform; an emerging country by 2030, based on intensive industrialization; and a developed country by 2050, by becoming a knowledge society. The plan would be implemented through five-year plans, the first of which would begin in 2017.

27. The priority of the first five-year plan to was improve human capital by taking advantage of the demographic dividend, which required close collaboration among various development actors at the national and international levels to guarantee strong, sustained, and above all inclusive economic growth. Special attention was therefore being accorded to the specific health, education and job needs of young people and women.

28. His Government was working to achieve poverty reduction and redistribution of the dividends of economic growth and develop the economic and social infrastructure necessary to achieve well-being for the population. Transportation infrastructure was also being built to provide outlets for agricultural and mining products and to make people and goods more mobile. In addition to the challenge of strengthening the national statistical and census system to provide reliable, up-to-date data for the design, follow-up and evaluation of development programmes, his country also faced challenges in securing financing on more flexible terms and from diversified sources. The country was in a crucial phase of administrative decentralization to respond to concerns at the grass roots level. Each of the 26 newly-formed provinces had authorities elected by the people in 2016. That new democratic experience would continue, with transparent and inclusive presidential and legislative elections to be carried out in a peaceful atmosphere.

29. Climate change was an unprecedented environmental challenge. Following its signature of the Paris Agreement, his Government had begun work to complete ratification before the end of the year. It also welcomed the recent adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. Thousands were dying in the Mediterranean. That must be stopped, and the root causes of those mass movements, which were poverty, armed conflict and a lack of resilience in responding to disasters, must be addressed so that all citizens of the world, and of developing countries in particular, could live happily and in peace in their own countries.

30. It was only when the special needs of the least developed countries were effectively taken into account that it would be possible to leave no one behind. It was important to win the struggle against poverty so as to avoid the tragic consequences of development failure. For that reason, his delegation welcomed the Group of 20 Action Plan on the Sustainable Development Goals and called on the developed countries to keep their commitments with regard to the developing countries, in the context of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

31. **Mr. Mhura** (Malawi) said that although the economy of Malawi had suffered over the previous two years owing to El Niño, his Government had undertaken several economic initiatives to improve its financial management system and reform public services. It was responding to challenges caused by floods and droughts through a new climate change policy.

32. In 2015, Malawi had passed a momentous law on marriage, divorce and family relations which, among other issues, addressed the issue of child marriage by raising the age of marriage to 18 years. The focus of the law was the girl child: her education, her right to childhood, her right to family planning and the elimination of gender-based violence. The law was key to ensuring the socioeconomic development of Malawi. It was receiving support from traditional leaders in rural areas where it was likely to face challenges.

33. The inconclusive nature of the trade negotiations on duty-free, quota-free access to products from the least developed countries under the Doha Round was exacerbating the challenges faced by landlocked nations. His delegation therefore hoped that the negotiations could be brought to a successful conclusion.

34. Malawi was exploring many initiatives to strengthen its economy and was seeking public and private partners across the globe to ensure its economic development in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals. Foremost in that effort was support for education, including higher education, and

for national statistical systems, in order to enhance data collection and research capacities to underpin appropriate decision-making. New universities were being established in Malawi. In that regard, his delegation supported a strengthening of the University for Peace and perhaps the establishment of a university for development.

35. His delegation hoped that the draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, which would play a key role in setting the stage for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, would reflect the key priorities of the least developed countries and the needs of countries in special situations.

36. **Ms. Byaje** (Rwanda) said that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda had led to a common understanding that global development was a shared responsibility. It was necessary to work together to overcome the numerous hurdles that could hamper transformative economic change, caused, for example, by excessive reliance on a few commodities for economic growth, which had plunged many countries into recession. In Africa, the sharp decline in the growth of GDP over the past year would adversely affect the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, since high and inclusive growth was needed to eradicate poverty by 2030. The situation called for robust policymaking, with a strong emphasis on structural transformation and diversification of economies.

37. Rwanda had maintained its resilience during difficult times by diversifying growth sectors. It would continue to invest in its main asset, its people, to enhance citizen empowerment and build community capacity, enabling citizens to identify priorities in local development planning that responded to their basic needs. Civic participation was coupled with accountability mechanisms to tackle inequalities and entrench good governance and the rule of law. There would be a continued focus on building inclusive, representative, transparent and responsible institutions to foster greater inclusion of all, while ensuring that the special needs of children, youth, women, genocide survivors, persons with disabilities and the elderly were addressed.

38. Rwanda was collecting, identifying and prioritizing indicators in order to produce reliable disaggregated data to ensure grassroots ownership of the development process. There was a strong focus on national leadership and ownership, as well as on planning and budgeting, to ensure the success of the 2030 Agenda.

39. Features of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Rwanda included civic ownership of implementation;; a renewed focus on gender equality, youth participation and care for the most vulnerable; attention to infrastructure and energy gaps and inclusive, job-rich industrialization, while fostering regional integration; and an awareness that enablers such as adequate financing and means of implementation, as well as the use of science and technology and particularly Internet broadband, were crucial to making an impact in implementing the Agenda. In addition, Rwanda was engaged in preparedness and awareness-raising to help the country become climate-resilient.

40. **Mr. Shava** (Zimbabwe), stressing the need for the universal implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, said that implementation of the 2030 Agenda was a major challenge for developing countries, given the huge financial resources required. Revitalized global partnerships would be required for the provision of financial resources, transfer of technology and targeted capacity-building support. Global follow-up and review of the Agenda must remain a process led by the United Nations.

41. Poverty eradication was a responsibility that must be shared by all countries through international cooperation. Special attention must be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty. It was important to create an international environment that was truly supportive of national efforts to eradicate poverty and promoted economic growth and social development on a sustainable basis.

42. While international trade was an engine for inclusive and sustained economic growth and poverty eradication, the continuing imbalances, discrimination and inequalities in the current multilateral trading system were holding back developing countries as they attempted to achieve their goals. Zimbabwe called for a speedy conclusion to the negotiations in the Doha Development Round and achievement of an agreement on a universal, rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and

equitable multilateral trading system that removed all trade-distorting subsidies that blocked developing countries' exports, especially exports of agricultural products.

43. All countries must work together to improve the international environment for financing for development. All Member States and development partners must demonstrate their commitment to participate constructively in the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up. Future forums must come up with substantive and action-oriented intergovernmentally agreed outcomes to lay the foundation for an effective review process and implementation of the financing for development outcomes and means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

44. Achieving sustained economic growth required the reform, revitalization and restructuring of international financial institutions to ensure greater effectiveness and responsiveness to developing countries' development needs. Those institutions must be better equipped to fully discharge their respective mandates for fostering development and accelerating economic growth, social justice and sustainable development in developing countries. The functions of the International Monetary Fund in coordinating the macroeconomic policies of all its members, including industrialized countries, should be reinforced. The development lending role of the World Bank should be increased, particularly for infrastructure investments. Developing countries must have greater representation and voice in the decision-making of all international financial institutions.

45. The United Nations was the appropriate forum to promote international cooperation in tax matters and set international tax standards and regulations. Zimbabwe was deeply concerned about the lack of commitment by some Member States to promoting international cooperation on tax matters. All countries should have an equal say in international tax rules. Capacity-building support should be provided to developing countries to help them strengthen their tax collection capacities. The Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters should be upgraded to an intergovernmental body.

46. Zimbabwe was also concerned by the lack of commitment of some Member States to address the problem of illicit financial flows. There should be an inclusive, universal, intergovernmental instrument charged with ensuring collective responsibility and cooperation in the fight against illicit financial flows.

47. Developed countries should fulfil their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to provide the means of implementation, including financial resources, to assist developing countries with both mitigation and adaptation actions, in line with the outcomes of the Paris Agreement.

48. **Mr. Aljamali** (Yemen) said that if the objectives of the 2030 Agenda, and poverty eradication in particular, were not translated into actions on the ground, the Sustainable Development Goals would remain mere ink on paper. Noting that his country had recently signed the Paris Agreement, he reminded delegations that although the main victims of climate change were in the least developed countries, its primary causes originated in the developed world.

49. After making great strides towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, Yemen was experiencing slower progress as a result of the coup perpetrated against the legitimate Government by the Houthi militias in alliance with the former President. The international community should provide extra support for countries in conflict situations or other special circumstances. His delegation looked forward to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III) to be held in October 2016, and hoped that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review would enhance the effectiveness of United Nations support to Member States.

50. **Mr. Alsharrah** (Kuwait) said that Member States and United Nations agencies had tried to take into account national specificities and varying levels of development in formulating the development agenda. Milestones such as the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement reflected a determination to respond to development aspirations, foremost of which was the eradication of poverty. Climate change should be addressed on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Conflict and instability had humanitarian consequences not only for the countries where they occurred, but also for neighbouring States.

51. Although Kuwait was classified as a low-income developing State, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development provided assistance to people around the world. Kuwait was an active participant in development programmes and events organized by the United Nations and a firm supporter of global partnerships to eradicate poverty, relieve debt, address the effects of climate change and respond to the needs of countries in special circumstances. All the developed countries should meet the target of allocating 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA.

52. **Mr. Malawane** (South Africa) said that multilateral efforts to bridge the gap between the North and the South must be enhanced. National efforts by South Africa were in keeping with the integrated and transformative approach of the 2030 Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063, which aimed to achieve an inclusive, prosperous and peaceful Africa. Success in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda would depend in large part on adequate means of implementation and meaningful follow-up and review architecture. The support of development partners was essential in ensuring the fulfilment of the commitments made in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. It was equally important to uphold the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

53. His delegation was concerned that at the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, some delegations had attempted to undermine the mandate of General Assembly resolution 68/1. That lack of cooperation had been further manifested during negotiations on the draft proposal concerning the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and on the convening of the second forum on financing for development. The proposal to hold the forum in May 2017 was procedurally flawed and not in line with resolution 68/1. The lack of cooperation had adversely affected his ability, as President of the Economic and Social Council, to carry out his mandate in preparing the next forum.

54. Financing for development and the 2030 Agenda must remain separate. The financing for development process must go beyond financing the Sustainable Development Goals, and the 2030 Agenda needed to draw upon the means of implementation commitments captured in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. His delegation urged development partners to honour their ODA commitments.

55. Curbing illicit financial flows was vital for the financing of the Sustainable Development Goals. Losses resulting from such flows were due not only to criminal activities or corruption, but primarily to commercial activities. South Africa was therefore committed to upgrading the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to a universal and intergovernmental body in order to tackle global tax matters, thereby giving the Committee a strengthened and enhanced mandate to support developing countries in dealing with tax issues, including illicit financial flows.

56. Agricultural development and food security should receive particular attention under the 2030 Agenda as tools for attaining sustainable development and achieving the overarching objective of poverty eradication. The focus should be on creating economic opportunities and enabling Member States and their communities to access those opportunities, while addressing the growing concerns about the effects of climate change. The Committee should focus on the socioeconomic dimension of conflict prevention, peace and security matters that should be addressed in the appropriate, mandated United Nations bodies.

57. South Africa looked forward to the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement, with the understanding that the pre-existing commitments of the developed countries must be honoured and that support in the form of climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building would be provided to developing countries both pre- and post-2020. Early entry into force must not alter the 2020 commencement date for the new commitments or exclude any parties to the Agreement from the decision-making processes to operationalize the Agreement.

58. Implementation of the outcome document from the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) would be a major challenge, given all the other global plans that must now be navigated. Nevertheless,. South Africa reaffirmed previous General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions calling for the

strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programmes (UN-Habitat) as the United Nations body entrusted with the issue of human settlements and the New Urban Agenda.

59. **Ms. Namgyel** (Bhutan) said that, as a landlocked and least developed country, Bhutan faced immense development challenges. In addition to inherent structural constraints, Bhutan continued to suffer the impact of climate change, and had experienced extensive destruction as a result of unprecedented flash floods in July 2016.

60. Bhutan was nonetheless pressing ahead with its development endeavours. The 2030 Agenda, the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 provided the overall development framework for the pursuit of sustainable development. Bhutan echoed the call for effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level, particularly within the least developed countries. It had begun the work of integrating the Goals into its national priorities and development planning framework. A mapping exercise had been undertaken to find linkages between the Goals and national development plans and to raise awareness of the Goals on the part of government officials, parliamentarians, civil society and media. The Sustainable Development Goals would be an integral part of Bhutan's development plans and programmes under its twelfth five-year plan.

61. The continued support of development partners was critical, with the success of the 2030 Agenda ultimately hinging on the quality of partnerships between Governments, the private sector and civil society at the national, regional and global levels. The Agenda required a United Nations development system that was able to deliver integrated and coordinated policy support on the ground, in response to national priorities and needs. An ambitious outcome of the new quadrennial comprehensive policy review that matched the ambitions of the Agenda and supported national-level implementation in least developed countries would be essential.

62. Although Bhutan had been identified as eligible for graduation from the least developed country category, the challenges facing it as a least developed country would remain even after it had met the graduation thresholds. Graduation must be seen in the larger context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The experiences of countries that had already graduated indicated clearly that graduation must be handled with care. Continued support from development partners was critical to ensure that least developed countries graduated on a sure footing and in a sustainable manner, so as to avoid the risk of backtracking on hard-won development gains.

63. **Ms. Kasese-Bota** (Zambia) said that the active pursuit of industrialization would lead to greater economic growth, particularly in developing countries in Africa and countries in special situations. Zambia, like many African countries, was rich in natural resources that could be transformed into raw materials for industrialization. The focus on economic diversification would help countries such as Zambia shift from primary production of minerals, crops and forest products to value-added products created through industrialization.

64. Zambia's seventh five-year national development plan, which would take effect in 2017, placed a special focus on development of rural areas to achieve maximum poverty reduction. As previous development plans had shown that high economic growth was not sufficient to address poverty, the current plan included a number of strategies, including industrialization, infrastructure development and a focus on agriculture and job creation.

65. Specific measures to address poverty, high unemployment, hunger and income inequality included diversification of the agricultural sector, promotion of forestry and establishment of multi-facility economic zones. As 70 per cent of people in rural areas depended on agriculture for their livelihood, her Government had prioritized agricultural production and the amalgamation of value chains in efforts to reduce dependence on the traditional mono-economy pattern. It continued to address the challenges faced by micro, small and medium enterprises, including access to finance, markets and technology, as well as entrepreneurial skill development. Such interventions should spur enterprise growth and contribute to meaningful job creation. To attain inclusive growth, Zambia would continue to prioritize investment in infrastructure, energy, water, transport, communications, education and health. Her

Government was also promoting the empowerment of women, youth and persons with disabilities and had set up entrepreneurship development programmes that targeted women and young people.

66. Zambia was already suffering the effects of climate change, including droughts, unpredictable weather patterns, floods and extreme temperatures. Climate change would be a priority area in the seventh national development plan.

67. The successful implementation of national development plans and their integration into the 2030 Agenda required sustainable financing. Goal 17 on means of implementation was therefore crucial. Increased support was needed for domestic resource mobilization, private sector financing, increased ODA and mutually beneficial foreign direct investment, including innovative sources of financing.

68. **Mr. Bhattarai** (Nepal) said that implementation of the 2030 Agenda had yet to begin in real terms. It was important to reflect on the causes of the delay, which was not the first of its kind. The least developed countries had lost the first two decades dedicated to them and two half decades after that. No lessons had been drawn from the delayed implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The situation must be urgently addressed.

69. Although poverty was the breeding ground for most of the world's ills, the Member States had not been able to address that harsh, mundane reality and cast off all unhelpful rhetoric in order to deal with poverty head-on. National commitments, ownership, leadership, people-centric and accountable governance systems had done little for the least developed countries and the landlocked developing countries. They must be complemented by robust international partnerships.

70. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda was not about the mechanical meeting of goals and targets alone. It should be about fulfilling collective responsibilities for people and the planet, building on the accomplishments of the Millennium Development Goals and supporting the timely, full and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda with adequate means of implementation.

71. The international community had an obligation to help the least developed countries graduate and ease the structural deficiencies of the landlocked developing countries as agreed in the programmes of action for those countries. The Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 should be implemented in full synergy and perfect coherence with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

72. Climate change posed an existential threat to some of the small island developing States, and Nepal was in full solidarity with those countries. There was an unrecognized organic linkage between mountains and seas. Many measures that reduced problems in the Himalayas such as avalanches, glacial lake outburst floods, other types of floods and landslides could help millions of people, whether deep inside landmasses or in the middle of oceans.

73. Nepal had integrated the Sustainable Development Goals and other development goals into its development plan as of July 2016. Post-earthquake reconstruction was designed to build back better and smarter. However, the narrow economic base in Nepal, its landlocked condition and high vulnerability, made worse by climate change, natural disasters, capacity shortfalls and weak means of implementation, impeded the sustainability of the country's development.

74. **Mr. Conte** (Guinea) said that his Government's policy priorities included restoring the rule of law; reassuring investors; relaunching the national economy; and addressing corruption. The first pillar was governance: improved governance and institutional reforms were of central importance since, without an independent justice system, it was not possible to combat corruption.

75. Mining held great industrial potential for Guinea, whose territory was home to one third of the world's bauxite reserves. Mining was therefore a priority in his Government's economic policy. Creation of a world-class mining industry would require a propitious investment environment, an updating of the land registry and streamlining of the management of mining concessions and of major mining projects. Implementation of programmes dating to the period between 2010 and 2015, involving investments of tens

of billions of dollars, could make Guinea a major mining centre in West Africa.

76. In line with the 2030 Agenda, his Government had initiated a national economic diversification plan that would involve carefully tapping national energy and agricultural potential. Support for farmers was aimed at boosting agricultural production and making Guinea the breadbasket of West Africa. Guinea's enormous potential in the areas of cotton, coffee, cocoa and cashew production would provide a basis for restoring its position as a major exporter of industrial products, strengthening sectors that provided foreign exchange and jobs for young people and women. Business, tourism, telecommunications and financial services were all areas that Guinea would seek to strengthen.

77. With revenue dropping, it was necessary to broaden the tax base, identify new sources of revenue and combat fraud and tax evasion. Improved road, railway, port and airport infrastructure also represented important challenges for the socioeconomic development of Guinea. While there had been encouraging progress in the ambitious programmes described, there was also a resource shortfall. The Ebola epidemic had plunged Guinea into two years of unprecedented health challenges, slowing economic growth and exerting a negative impact on all sectors of the national economy.Guinea needed bilateral and multilateral partners as never before, and appealed for support as it worked to lift itself up after the Ebola epidemic and stimulate economic growth.

78. *Mr. Djani (Indonesia) took the Chair.*

79. **Ms. Jemouvic** (Serbia) said that Serbia's support for implementation of the landmark agreements and agendas adopted in 2015 was unstinting and its priorities were unchanged. Eradication of poverty, higher levels of employment, inclusiveness, quality education and health protection underpinned Serbia's development strategy, with peace the basis of its development, along with the recognition that sustainable development was unattainable without respect for the rule of law and equal justice for all. In the past two years, Serbia had achieved significant results in the areas of economic growth and increased employment, especially for young people. The economy had registered growth of 2 per cent. Achieving gender equality and addressing violence against women and girls were at the centre of Government attention.

80. Her Government had established an intersectoral working group to implement the 2030 Agenda and would soon begin updating the national sustainable development strategy and its financing. Exchange of experiences and best practices were the way forward for implementation of the Agenda. Failure could not and must not be an option. While each country had primary responsibility for attaining the Goals, subregional, regional and global cooperation would be indispensable.

81. Hit by devastating floods two years earlier, Serbia recognized the urgent need for climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. It had adopted the intended nationally determined contributions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and was elaborating a national climate change strategy and an action plan to identify the possibilities, timelines and concrete actions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions at the national level. Serbia had signed the Paris Agreement, and the National Assembly was expected to ratify it in 2017.

82. During the previous 18 months,, more than 700,000 refugees and migrants had transited through Serbia, and there were currently more than 7,000 migrants in Serbia. Serbia frequently received praise from migrants themselves, as well as from United Nations bodies and the international community, for its solidarity and humanity. However, Serbia had for 20 years faced the problem of protracted displacement and knew that it lacked the capacity to provide long-term, mass shelter for migrants. It therefore welcomed the New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants and called for a comprehensive European and global solution.

83. **Mr. Khiari** (Tunisia) said that the recent milestones in the push for sustainable development reflected growing international awareness of the need to overcome development gaps. He called on the international community to operationalize means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda, and in particular the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, with its focus on development financing, technology transfer and capacity-building for less developed countries. Such support would be particularly vital for implementation of the Paris Agreement.

84. Tunisia had incorporated the Sustainable Development Goals into its national five-year development plan. Global partnerships were important, and Member States must meet their ODA pledges. Africa in particular was in dire need of assistance, and investment support, debt relief and facilitated technology transfer were needed to help countries undergoing transition to develop independent resources. It was also important to integrate the informal economy into the formal economy. Illicit financial flows, tax evasion and corruption needed to be combated, and greater international cooperation was required to restore plundered assets. The developing countries needed access to special funding to address the effects of climate change. His delegation hoped that the upcoming Habitat III Conference would make progress towards more sustainable cities.

85. **Mr. Ndong Mba** (Equatorial Guinea) said that the Millennium Development Goals had created a unique platform across countries, enabling integration and cooperation. Equatorial Guinea had had a plan of action that took into account domestic risks and vulnerabilities with a view to creating sustainable growth through a socioeconomic development plan that covered infrastructure, agriculture, health, education and cultural integration. Government investment would set the country on the path to becoming an emerging country by 2020. Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals had been based on the principles of political will and political benefit, which were catalysing elements to mobilize all citizens and residents of Equatorial Guinea. Campaigns and meetings had been organized, and the community had been duly informed about projects being carried out and about the need for complete support for the Horizon 2020 programme.

86. Over the next 15 years, Equatorial Guinea would be better placed to mobilize the necessary resources to continue its development activities. Development began with the State, and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was based on the stability of the State as the ultimate entity. Where there was no State, there was no development, as indicated by numerous contemporary conflicts where the State had collapsed, leading to disorder. President Obiang Nguema Mabsogo had made the decision to take power because the State had collapsed and needed to be completely rebuilt. If the country had had to follow outside models, it would not have achieved the benefits and the progress that it was currently experiencing.

87. Equatorial Guinea was committed to achieving emerging country status in 2020 by financing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, whose budget was part of the Horizon 2020 programme. It would cover gaps in investment in the 2030 Agenda by diversifying its income sources and reducing dependence on oil and gas by developing tourism, agriculture and fisheries. By financing its own development projects and relying, wherever possible, on local experts, Equatorial Guinea could keep down development costs, and results would be appropriate for the target population. His Government would continue cooperating with the private sector to encourage investment in the State. As had been the case with the Millennium Development Goals, it would encourage private sector participation through business services in the health, education, agriculture, energy and other sectors. It would remain committed to transparent transactions and maintain the trust of its partners. At the same time, registration procedures for companies that were investing in Equatorial Guinea had been significantly streamlined.

88. **Ms. Aljazi** (Jordan) said that the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the other development milestones of the past year would remain mere ink on paper unless they were implemented effectively. Slowing economic growth, increased unemployment, natural disasters and violent conflicts continued to threaten development gains. Jordan was hosting 1.3 million Syrian refugees, which placed enormous pressure on government services and infrastructure.

89. Despite those extra burdens, the Kingdom's Higher National Committee for Sustainable Development, which had been established in 2002, had laid out a road map that integrated the 2030 Agenda into its national development plan. That road map promoted private-public investment partnerships and was designed to maximize benefit from past experiences and United Nations support. It included a system for monitoring indicators and building statistical capacities.

90. Financing continued to present a challenge to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It was important to increase ODA for least developed countries, and

international financial institutions and donor States should adjust criteria for assistance to middle-income countries that, like her own, were affected by regional crises.

91. **Mr. García Moritán** (Argentina) said that the universality of the 2030 Agenda was essential to achieving the overarching goal of poverty eradication and eliminating equalities within and between countries. One of the strengths of the 2030 Agenda was that its commitments applied to all countries, were undertaken voluntarily and took into account the capacities and priorities of every country. In addition to social and environmental approaches, achievement of the Goals required a human rights approach to ensure genuine development for all.

92. Argentina had begun to strengthen its institutional regulations with regard to implementation of each part of the Agenda, on the basis of the coordination structures which had underpinned the successful implementation and follow-up of the Millennium Development Goals.

93. Climate change was the biggest challenge facing the world at the current time. Argentina had ratified the Paris Agreement, along with 63 other countries that were responsible for over 52 per cent of total emissions; it called on the international community to ensure the early entry into force of the Agreement. Argentina was working to improve its environmental policies at the national and regional levels and to support innovative approaches and technology transfer in order to make progress in that area. It had established a new national office on climate change whose purpose was to develop a common approach to reducing emissions and monitoring reductions.

94. Operational activities for development must have a broader and greater role to help countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in a meaningful way. That would require greater effectiveness, coherence and impact and a significant increase in core resources. In considering the long-term challenges of development, it was important to build national capacity in developing countries. South-South and triangular cooperation were of great importance in that regard; his delegation therefore welcomed the progress made by the United Nations development system in incorporating such cooperation in the strategic plans of a number of agencies.

95. **Mr. Brown** (Liberia) said that the Millennium Development Goals had deepened understanding of the scourges of global poverty, lack of opportunity, rising inequality and pervasive injustice. While those scourges and heightened awareness of them had made people restless and insecure, they had also strengthened the shared conviction that a more ambitious global agenda was needed. Liberia hoped that the needed resources would be mobilized to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with the least developed countries serving as the basis for measuring progress. Full support for the Agenda would enable countries to move out of the poverty trap.

96. Liberia had played a pivotal role in formulating and launching the 2030 Agenda, with President Ellen Sirleaf Johnson serving as Co-Chair of the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. His Government had begun domesticating the Goals through robust nationwide consultations and dialogues with major stakeholders, and was formulating a road map to achieve its full integration into Vision 2030, Liberia Rising, the 18-year national development agenda. National ownership efforts included work to develop the national budget and priorities in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, in a multidimensional process of decentralization that sought solutions to achieve food security, quality education and job opportunities, with awareness of environmental impact of actions in each area.

97. Home to 42 per cent of the biodiversity of West Africa, Liberia was aware of the need to protect the environment from global warming and the effects of climate change. Its commitment to sustainable land and forest governance and management was reflected in the establishment of a legal verification mechanism and an enforced regulatory framework. Those measures would serve as a balance between environment and development, and a platform for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Poverty reduction and provision of basic social services needed to be managed so as not to jeopardize the rights, safety, happiness and existence of future generations.

98. **Mr. Shawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that his people faced the worst kind of challenge to sustainable development in the form of Israeli occupation. Reports from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, human rights

organizations and the United Nations had provided plenty of evidence that Israel, the occupying Power, was engaging in the premeditated and systematic destruction of any potential components of sustainable development for the Palestinian people. Seven decades earlier, the Palestinians had had three airports, four seaports, an electricity company, a banking system, a national currency and all the other prerequisites for the statehood that should rightfully have been theirs under General Assembly resolution 181 (II). However, after the Zionist movement seized 78 per cent of Palestine and then later occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Palestinians saw their resources and development capacities stripped away in full view of the international community by a regime that was evidently above international law. The recent report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the economic costs of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people (A/71/174) had shown how asymmetrical power relationships denied Palestinians access to their land, water and natural resources while Israeli settlements continued to expand.

99. The 2030 Agenda declared explicitly that there could be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. Israel's almost 600 terrorist settlements and its control of some 60 per cent of the West Bank continued to deprive the Palestinian people of their right to development. If the Member States wished to demonstrate that they were truly serious about implementing the resolutions they had adopted, they should stop importing products from the Israeli settlements and refuse the terrorist settlers transit within their territories.

100. **Mr. Auza** (Observer for the Holy See) said that while the significant international commitments made in 2015 had demonstrated a willingness among political leaders to address global challenges together, inequalities among and within countries had grown even more gaping and the number of violent conflicts had increased, provoking the current unparalleled humanitarian crisis. A human-centred approach must form the foundation for addressing the interconnected challenges of environmental, economic and social development and promoting the dignity and worth of all persons, in order to avoid a reductionist approach that viewed the human person as an obstacle to development or, worse, the cause of his or her own underdevelopment and neediness.

101. Integral human development required macroeconomic policies capable of creating stable financial, commercial and economic growth to meet humanity's basic needs. Such a model must address people's spiritual, social, environmental and physical needs and come from within communities that invested in and provided what was necessary to satisfy basic needs such as food, housing, health care and work, and to enjoy less tangible rights such as education, freedom of expression and religious freedom. Integral human development was more than the sum total of resources invested in development projects and their measurable results; it also included intangible elements that were transformative and contributed to greater human well-being.

102. To bring about such development, a renewed commitment was needed to create equitable mechanisms for global trade and multilateral financial assistance. Human and financial resources were often far removed from those who consumed and produced them. Globalization could manifest itself as global indifference to the needs of others, or, at its best, take the form of global solidarity and commitment to meet responsibilities towards those in need. Global solidarity fostered greater social cohesion and harmony; it meant ensuring that global trade and financial and economic systems incorporated ethical and moral structures that recognized responsibilities to communities, locally and globally, and to humanity's common home.

103. There had been dramatic changes in patterns of population settlements since the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I) in 1976, creating new challenges, especially in mega urban settings. His delegation hoped that Habitat III would provide an opportunity to address housing and urbanization challenges in a holistic, people-centred manner.

104. **Mr. Mabhongo** (International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)) said that the adoption of Agenda 2030 represented the first time that world leaders had explicitly recognized that science, technology and innovation were essential for development. Nuclear science had numerous peaceful applications that could help countries to reduce poverty and hunger, improve

energy supplies, diagnose and treat diseases, address ocean acidification and respond to climate change. Cancer control was a particular focus of IAEA. The Agency was working hard to help remedy shortages of equipment and trained medical and technical experts to treat cancer effectively.

105. IAEA also had a proven ability to respond quickly to health emergencies around the world. Two years earlier, it had helped countries in West Africa respond to the outbreak of Ebola by providing diagnostic kits, laboratory supplies and technical advice. It was currently responding in a similar way to the Zika virus in Latin America and the Caribbean.

106. The Agency's nuclear applications laboratories offered training to scientists, supported research in human health, food and other areas and provided analytical services to national laboratories. The Agency made nuclear techniques available to fight insect pests such as the tsetse fly and the fruit fly, and to develop new varieties of food crops that were more resistant to drought and disease. Jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, IAEA had generated more than 3,200 new varieties of food, such as wheat and rice, using nuclear techniques. Other nuclear technologies included isotopic techniques that helped to improve child nutrition, evaluate the impact of climate change and ocean acidification, track pollutants, assess soil erosion and determine water quality.

107. IAEA, working with its partners, had extensive experience in bringing about successful cooperation among developed and developing countries and in providing access to nuclear science and technology in order to have a lasting, beneficial impact on people, industries and economies.

108. **Ms. Puri** (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) said that under the recent major instruments, gender equality and women's empowerment were both a means of achieving sustainable development and an end in themselves. Gender equality and women's empowerment were also a stand-alone goal. The Committee must recognize and reflect that seismic change in its work. While gender equality had previously been seen more as an agenda item for the Third Committee, it was also an important issue for the Second Committee and must inform everything that it did.

109. The gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda must be a central element of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, which should empower and reposition the United Nations development system to maximize its impact at the country level. It should leverage the normative gains of 2015 to help accelerate gender equality achievements and ensure that no woman or girl was left behind; provide operational policy guidance on how to accelerate transformative results, while mainstreaming a gender perspective across the United Nations development system; and further strengthen United Nations system institutional compliance and the coordination and accountability function UN-Women. The next generation of United Nations gender equality champions must be supported and empowered.

110. **Ms. Mucavi** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that the strategic framework of FAO touched upon at least 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and set out a results-oriented approach to help fulfil the promise of the 2030 Agenda. FAO was putting its global expertise and networks at the service of the Agenda to help identify best practices and design and implement successful policies and programmes, monitor progress and contribute to concrete transformation on the ground. It was working in partnership with Governments, the United Nations system, communities and other development actors and had a global network of offices in 150 countries where it was an active member of United Nations country teams.

111. Despite progress in many countries, nearly 795 million people still suffered from chronic hunger. Over 70 per cent of the world's poor and food insecure lived in rural areas of developing countries. Lacking opportunities for a decent life, rural people were often forced to leave their homes in search of better opportunities. Promoting inclusive and resilient rural development and improved food systems was therefore central to the success of the 2030 Agenda and an important part of efforts to promote sustainable production and consumption and reduce food loss and waste, increase efficiency in the use of water and ensure sustainable management of land and ocean resources.

112. World Food Day would be marked on 17 October. The theme of World Food Day 2016 would be the impact of climate change on food and agriculture and the need to change food systems.

113. **Mr. Pinhero** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that the creation of decent jobs for young people would be a major sustainable development challenge in the coming years. Trends of low and jobless economic growth and the spread of labour-saving technologies could compromise the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 8 on sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Some of the agenda items before the Committee could provide an important opportunity to reflect on those issues and support Member States' implementation of the 2015 commitments.

114. ILO studies showed that the low carbon economy was more job-intensive and that work created by the transition to clean energy and more sustainable production patterns could offset the loss of jobs in emissions-intensive industries. Well-managed transitions to environmentally and socially sustainable economies could become strong drivers of job creation, job upgrading, social justice and poverty eradication. With 200 million people out of work worldwide and over 600 million people who would need to be included in the workforce over the next 30 years, full employment must be set as a macroeconomic target.

115. ILO looked forward to discussing the results of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), with an emphasis on the theme of full employment and decent work for all, and its follow- up. Achieving universal social protection was a major milestone in that process.

116. The 2030 Agenda provided a strong link between decent work and migration. Labour rights must be respected, and countries should consider opening labour markets to refugees. Migration held major benefits for countries of origin and destination alike.

117. **Ms. Carpentier** (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) said that current economic trends were threatening the integration of the 2030 Agenda on the economic side, particularly with respect to trade, investment, technology, innovation and debt. For the Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved, those areas must be properly managed. The benefits of globalization and improved macroeconomic management had helped many developing countries integrate into the global economy.

118. The Sustainable Development Goals must be used to turn around the global economy. Knowledge, tools and funds must be used together to support implementation, particularly for the benefit of the least developed, African, landlocked and small island developing States, as well as middle-income countries and other countries in special situations. That was the only way to stem the rise of protectionism and isolationism, restore trust in the global economy and re-establish globalization as an engine of inclusive prosperity for all.

119. The outcome document of UNCTAD 14, had strengthened UNCTAD as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and had also realigned the three UNCTAD pillars of consensus-building, research and analysis, and technical assistance to make sure that together, they put globalization at the service of the implementation of Agenda 2030. UNCTAD had launched a multi-donor trust fund on trade and productive capacity to make it easier for donors to supplement the technical cooperation of UNCTAD and its 15 partners within the United Nations system. It was also initiating deeper and more inclusive partnerships, such as its recently launched eTrade for All initiative, which brought together 15 international organizations, including development banks, three Member State donors and 22 private sector actors. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD had just named Mr. Jack Ma, the chief executive officer and founder of Alibaba Group, as the UNCTAD Special Advisor on Youth Entrepreneurship and Small Enterprise. Young people and entrepreneurs were among the most critical actors whose engagement was needed to achieve the Goals.

*The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.*

United Nations A/C.2/71/SR.6

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## Second Committee

**Summary record of the 6th meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 6 October 2016, at 10 a.m.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Chair:* | Mr. Djani | (Indonesia) |
| *later:* | Ms. Nipomici (Vice-Chair) | (Republic of Moldova) |
| *later:* | Mr. Díaz de la Guardia (Vice-Chair) | (Spain) |
| *later:* | Ms. Nipomici (Vice-Chair) | (Republic of Moldova) |

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(b) South-South cooperation for development

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16-17250 (E)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

**Agenda item 24: Operational activities for development**

**(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system** (A/69/737 and A/69/737/Add.1; A/71/63-E/2016/8; A/71/292/Rev.1)

**(b) South-South cooperation for development** (A/71/39 and A/71/208)

1. **Mr. Gass** (Assistant-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system: recommendations (A/71/292/Rev.1), said that the recommendations should be read in connection with the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 (in document A/71/63-E/2016/8). The recommendations had benefitted from the outcomes of analytic work produced by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with the support of the United Nations development system as well as independent experts, along with the outcomes of key processes such as the Economic and Social Council dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system.

2. The recommendations reflected a shared understanding that the current development landscape had changed. Global challenges, such as climate change, pandemics, conflicts and humanitarian crises, as well as the interconnectedness of global markets, could not be contained by borders. Moreover, while the number of middle-income countries continued to grow, inequality was on the rise. Uncertainty and volatility continued to threaten or even reverse development gains, and the field of development actors had expanded. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development embodied the recognition that current challenges required a collective response accompanied by adjustments in the United Nations development system. The recommendations were intended to catalyse just such a process, with the aim of moving towards a United Nations system that worked as one.

3. It was vital to define the core functions of the United Nations development system in a tailored, context-specific and integrated manner to align with the 2030 Agenda, taking into account both what the development system should and what it should not do. Those functions needed to be supported by appropriate funding flows and financing mechanisms; the report therefore set out a number of proposals to scale up core and "core-like" funding and adopt common reporting standards. Adjustments needed to be made to governance structures to increase system-wide accountability for results, and the field architecture of the United Nations development system needed to be reviewed, rationalized and aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Countries needed to develop an overall vision for collective sustainable development outcomes that embodied the "one country, one United Nations framework" approach.

4. It was evident that the universal and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda had raised the bar for the United Nations development system. A number of initiatives had already been undertaken to implement the Agenda at the global, regional and country levels. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review would be critical in charting the course for the immediate years ahead, while laying the foundations for more far-reaching change. The report therefore called for a review that would provide strategic direction, focus more on outcome than on process and encompass the United Nations development system as a whole.

5. **Mr. Chediek** (Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (A/71/208), said that the report highlighted the growing importance of South-South cooperation and its catalytic role with respect to the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Agreement on Climate Change. The report also assessed the steps taken by the United Nations development system to enhance support for South-South and triangular cooperation at the national, regional and global levels, and made a number of recommendations in that regard.

6. Introducing the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its nineteenth session (A/71/39), he recalled that delegations at the high-level plenary segment of the

session had highlighted the urgent need to maximize the scope of South-South and triangular cooperation in achieving the 2030 Agenda; the potential of such cooperation to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development; and the need to move beyond traditional forms of development cooperation by drawing on countries' comparative advantages, complementarities and synergies. They had also drawn attention to the many ways in which South-South cooperation could drive innovation, efficiency, sustainability and growth. A number of exemplary initiatives had been introduced at the thematic segment of the session.

7. **Mr. Tatiyapermpoon** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group believed that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should provide long-term strategic guidance to the United Nations development system at all levels, leading to a fundamental reform of that system. Operational activities for development should take into account the need to strengthen the capacities of developing countries in their efforts to achieve long-term sustainable development, while bearing in mind the different development levels and realities on the ground. Continued and enhanced support must be provided to those countries in line with the 2030 Agenda.

8. The Group reaffirmed the importance of the Review itself as a vehicle for establishing system-wide policy orientations for development cooperation and country-level modalities. It strongly believed that development was a goal unto itself, and constituted a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations operational activities for development, while at the same time being interlinked with peace and security and human rights, which were mutually reinforcing. Development activities must remain universal and voluntary and should be flexible enough to respond to the needs and priorities of programme countries. National leadership and engagement throughout the process were vital to ensure meaningful outcomes.

9. The Sustainable Development Goals and targets must be mainstreamed into the work of the system, bearing in mind that the overall objective of the 2030 Agenda was the eradication of poverty, including extreme poverty. At the same time, it was important to address the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries, in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges faced by middle-income countries, and also the needs of countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and of peoples and countries under foreign occupation. To that end, it was essential to perform a system-wide mapping of existing capacities and expertise in order to identify gaps and overlaps with a view towards improving synergies and avoiding fragmentation.

10. Core resources were the bedrock of United Nations operational activities for development. The Group was concerned about the accelerating imbalance between core and non-core resources, which must be addressed, as a matter of urgency, by operationalizing the concept of critical mass of core resources, incentivizing donors to reverse the decline in core resources, broadening the donor base and ensuring full cost recovery. Non-core contributions needed to be more flexible and must be aligned with the national priorities and plans of programme countries.

11. Comprehensive reform of the governance architecture of the system was urgently required in order to enhance its coordination and efficiency and improve its transparency, accountability and responsiveness to Member States. In that regard, the Group of 77 and China stressed the importance of equitable geographical representation in the system's senior posts. It was also important to improve the resident coordinator system by, inter alia, activating a functional firewall, establishing an accountability framework, exercising due diligence, enhancing the selection process based on geographic and gender diversity and reviewing its funding arrangements.

12. While recognizing the importance of the Delivering as One approach for harmonizing service delivery in programme countries, the Group reiterated that the principle of voluntary adoption must be kept in mind. It was important in that regard to establish a clear mechanism for system-wide monitoring and reporting.

13. South-South cooperation was a manifestation of solidarity among the peoples and countries of the South; it was complementary to, but not a substitute for traditional North-South cooperation. In that regard, the

Group reiterated its call for United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to continue taking concrete measures to mainstream their support for South-South and triangular cooperation in order to assist developing countries in maximizing the benefits and impact of such cooperation.

14. **Ms. Nguyen** (Viet Nam), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that the United Nations development system had long provided invaluable support to her region. ASEAN welcomed the strengthening of cooperation in that regard, as reflected in the ASEAN-United Nations Plan of Action for 2016-2020 to implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations, which would promote complementarities between the 2030 Agenda and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

15. The United Nations development system must deliver a unified response and be fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda, while enhancing performance and accountability. Its support for developing countries must respond to diverse national needs and capacities and be anchored in national ownership. To that end, the draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should aim at better positioning the system, offering strategic guidelines and defining results beyond the achievements of individual entities; the United Nations development system should cut through vertical organizational lines and silos and build on its absolute and comparative advantages and should focus on the core functions mandated by Member States.

16. A key issue to be tackled in the draft resolution was the imbalance between core and non-core resources, which adversely impacted system-wide response as it encouraged silos, fragmentation, competition and overlaps in operational activities. Integrated efforts were needed to align Headquarters with country-level operations. System-wide mechanisms targeted at coherence and coordination, such as Delivering as One and standard operating procedures, should be encouraged where appropriate.

17. With respect to South-South and triangular cooperation, ASEAN had been fostering initiatives to share knowledge, experience and best practices to narrow the development gap. As part of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, it would continue to promote regional connectivity, robust productivity growth, equitable development and inclusivity, and called on the United Nations system and other development partners to support those efforts. However, such cooperation was complementary to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. ASEAN reiterated its call for developed countries to meet their official development assistance (ODA) commitments in accordance with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. It appreciated the enhanced support from the United Nations development system particularly in the areas of policy dialogue, capacity development, data and information sharing, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. South-South and triangular cooperation should be mainstreamed in the policy frameworks and strategies of the system.

18. **Mr. Blanchard** (Canada), speaking on behalf of Australia, New Zealand and his own country, said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review needed to be strategic, which meant that it should be aligned with the 2030 Agenda and other key agreements; provide principles and incentives for the system to work better, both within and outside the United Nations; be action-oriented; and offer ways to measure progress, with clear follow-up actions and indicators. The Review must be completed on time, in order to have traction in guiding the strategic plans of funds and programmes and the remainder of the overall development system.

19. The United Nations system should be empowered to do better by dismantling siloed approaches across a range of issues. Systemic problems continued to hinder progress in several key areas. Although there had never been more money in the United Nations system, core functions were still struggling for finance. Moreover, with respect to personnel and staffing, there were still critical delays in integrating qualified people onto teams and into jobs. The system needed to adapt to the changing context to remain relevant and move ahead. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review was one of the tools to achieve that objective.

20. **Ms. Naeem** (Maldives), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), said that the small island developing States remained committed to the strengthening of United Nations operational activities for development and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with the SIDS Accelerated

Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway as the blueprint for their future. The 2030 Agenda required a change in the mindset of all players — Governments, the United Nations system and the overall international community. The draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review needed to provide strategic guidance for the full implementation of the Agenda.

21. Key aspects to be addressed in formulating the resolution included the need for the United Nations development system to reduce and ultimately eliminate unnecessary competition across entities and maximize the use of systemic diversities to deliver service in an efficient, effective, coherent, coordinated and cost-effective way. Clear reporting lines and leadership were needed to enhance transparency and accountability. The priorities and activities of small island developing States must be incorporated into relevant strategic and programmatic frameworks, taking into account the specific challenges they faced, and ensuring support for augmenting their capacities, including by strengthening the capacity and expertise of the relevant departments within the system so that they were better able to address and promote the interests of those States within and between entities of the United Nations development system at all levels.

22. Core funding played a critical role in the predictability and reliability of service delivery. With the continuing shift to non-core funding, there was an urgent need to broaden the donor base, including ODA. Financing should be provided based on measurements that went beyond gross domestic product, and collaboration should be enhanced with international financial institutions.

23. There was no "one size fits all" approach to the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations development system should strengthen its components at every level. In particular, there was a need to strengthen country teams, especially the resident coordinator system, by redefining the role of the resident coordinator through implementation of a functioning firewall and the provision of predictable, possibly pooled, funding. Funds, programmes and specialized agencies needed to be repositioned so that they functioned at all levels in a coordinated way. A system-wide mapping of existing capacities and expertise must be developed in order to identify gaps and overlaps, promote synergy and avoid fragmentation.

24. Genuine, durable partnerships based on mutual respect with mutual benefits would remain critical for the small island developing States to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The Alliance reiterated its call for the United Nations system to help facilitate such engagement. It highlighted the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation in the policies and strategic framework of operational activities for development, on the clear understanding that those types of cooperation could not replace North-South cooperation, which should remain the primary means of development cooperation.

25. **Mr. Webson** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that it was unfortunate that there had been minimal improvement in the adequacy and predictability of funding for operational activities for development.

26. The outcome of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should better align the United Nations development system with the 2030 Agenda and ensure the necessary resources for development. The quadrennial review was also an opportunity to engage Member States in a fair and constructive manner to analyse the value, effectiveness and coherence of all United Nations operational activities for development in the field and to set system-wide policy guidelines for specialized agencies, funds and programmes, based on the principles of universality, neutrality and multilateralism.

27. Poverty reduction, economic growth and sustainable development should be the guiding principles for operational activities for development, which must also be country-driven. The development system must strive to Deliver as One at the global, regional and country levels despite all attendant challenges. Operational activities for development must take into account the need for national capacity-building when addressing the long-term development challenges of recipient countries.

28. The disproportion between core and non-core funding continued to weaken the multilateral framework for development assistance; while that divide might benefit donor countries, it was extremely worrisome for recipient countries. CARICOM was also

concerned that donors had still not met the prescribed targets for ODA), despite renewing their commitments; it therefore called on Member States to fulfil those commitments.

29. CARICOM reemphasized the importance of South-South cooperation, which should be integrated into the operational activities of the United Nations system. However, such cooperation was a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation; triangular cooperation must likewise remain a major element of development activities. In order for the multilateral framework to be successful, system-wide actions must be harmonized without using a "one-size-fits-all" approach to development.

30. **Mr. Morales López** (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Like-minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries, said that the United Nations development system must reposition itself to respond to both the opportunities and the challenges of the universal, transformative and ambitious 2030 Agenda. Development cooperation must be made more effective and predictable, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, by providing developing countries with regular and timely information regarding medium-term planned support. In that regard, the development system must also cooperate in a complementary manner with other relevant forums, such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

31. Based on the principles of universality, integrality and leaving no one behind, efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda should target those most in need, regardless of their geographical location. It was therefore necessary to target people in need, not just countries. In responding to the sustainable development needs of all, it must be ensured that middle-income countries did not lose their development gains while tackling the challenges they faced.

32. The outcome recommendations of the Economic and Social Council dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system must be taken into account, including the need to acknowledge the multidimensional challenges faced by middle-income countries and to strengthen cooperation with those countries in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

33. The first Ministerial Meeting of the Like-minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries had recently been held to discuss the particular sustainable development challenges of that group of countries. The meeting had focused on concrete proposals that could advance the cooperation of the United Nations development system with middle-income countries, taking into account the broad and complex diversity of those countries and their capacities to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the importance of developing transparent measurements of progress in sustainable development that went beyond income criteria. Such new measurements must recognize poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as well as the social, economic and environmental dimensions of domestic output and structural gaps at all levels.

34. In order to enhance coordination and work on long-term strategic planning with middle-income countries, the United Nations development system should establish an inter-agency and system-wide action plan for the coordination of sustainable development in those countries that was evidence-based and included clear objectives, indicators and financing sources.

35. **Mr. Momen** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that since the 2030 Agenda and other agreements adopted in 2015 paid special attention to the least developed countries, the quadrennial comprehensive policy review must translate that attention into dedicated, comprehensive and tailor-made support to the those countries from the United Nations development system. The focus areas of the development system would need to expand exponentially to reflect the highly interconnected, cross-cutting and multisectoral nature of the new agreements.

36. Eradicating poverty and hunger, guaranteeing access to public health, education and other social services, addressing the impacts of climate change and building productive capacity should remain at the centre of development cooperation efforts. The United Nations development system should also support least developed countries with regard to data, statistics, knowledge platforms and monitoring and reporting activities during national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. For the least

developed countries, enhanced normative and operational support, including financial and technical support, were crucial elements to achieve the Goals and the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020.

37. As the existing contributions for operational activities were far from sufficient, it was vitally important to expand the donor base and vertically expand support from existing donors. In 2014, the expenditure in least developed countries by the United Nations system had been only about 53 per cent of total country-level expenditure. Over the following five years, that volume must be doubled, so as to increase the share going to least developed countries to 75 per cent as soon as possible. The long-term sustainability and predictability of resources were equally important. The rapid decline of core resources for operational activities was alarming; although non-core resources were important, they were often driven by political considerations and remained earmarked as country- or sector-specific, thus limiting the flexibility to carry out horizontal activities that encompassed multiple target areas. The contradiction between the integrated and coordinated approached required by the Sustainable Development Goals and the segmented funding mechanism of the United Nations development system must be resolved.

38. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review must elaborate a scale of contributions to the development system by development partners. Core resources could also be mobilized through a replenishment consultation process, as was the practice in the Global Environment Facility and the International Development Association. Such measures could ensure the availability of the required resources in a predictable manner, thus reducing competition among agencies and significantly enhancing effectiveness.

39. Resident coordinators must be empowered with adequate resources to effectively fulfil their mandate. National ownership and leadership were vitally important; core competency, efficiency and expertise should be the determining factors for recruitment of staff members, while ensuring equitable geographical representation. Host countries should be involved in the appraisal of resident coordinators and country teams.

40. The least developed country category must be universally recognized to facilitate coordinated and coherent follow-up and monitoring of progress made in those countries. Given the growing challenges faced by least developed countries and insufficient support from traditional donors, increased development support in the form of South-South cooperation was more important than ever, as a complement to North-South cooperation. United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies should support South-South and triangular cooperation so that developing countries could maximize the benefits of such cooperation in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

41. **Ms. Klausa** (Observer for the European Union), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that the 2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review was an opportunity to assess the operational activities of the United Nations development system through the lens of the major agreements adopted in 2015, with a view to making the system more fit for the purpose of supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and leaving no one behind. The development system must act in a more coordinated, effective, efficient and systematic manner, maintaining special focus on the least developed and fragile countries and marginalized groups.

42. The principle of form following function must continue to guide the operations of the United Nations development system, as well as the discussions on the quadrennial review. The current fragmentation of the United Nations development system hindered the delivery of its operational, standard-setting and normative mandates. Duplication of work and competition between United Nations entities must be avoided by reinforcing the need to work as one in an integrated and cross-sectoral fashion. The review should focus on outcomes rather than processes. The draft resolution should not be overly prescriptive or detailed, but instead provide clear and implementable mandates.

43. **Ms. Schive** (United States of America) said that the draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review was one of the most important resolutions that the Committee would negotiate in 2016. It was an opportunity to explore how to position

the United Nations development system in the new landscape defined by the 2030 Agenda and other international agreements, in order to ensure that its agencies contributed to the achievement of those international goals in the most timely, efficient and effective way possible to help the maximum number of people. Her delegation would engage constructively to ensure a consensus outcome, working with all colleagues to craft a strategic, focused, coherent draft resolution that best positioned the United Nations development system to help countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Her delegation looked forward to working with all delegations on the issue of South-South cooperation, which was critical to the success of the 2030 Agenda.

44. **Ms. Ponce** (Philippines) said that the operational activities for development of the United Nations must, first and foremost, take into account the development and changing needs and priorities of Member States. Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions and achieving sustainable development must be the core principles guiding negotiations during the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. In that context, the outcome of the Economic and Social Council dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system was a useful input. The 2030 Agenda could not be implemented without strengthening and empowering the country teams, resident coordinators and regional commissions, with a view to Delivering as One.

45. In order to achieve the necessary balance between core and non-core resources, her country supported the scaling up of core and core-like funding, as well as the more logical attribution of funds. It also called for greater transparency, accountability and governance.

46. South-South cooperation was an important strategy to assist the development efforts of developing countries but must be viewed as a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation. Her delegation therefore welcomed the efforts of various United Nations entities to integrate South-South cooperation into their strategic plans for 2014-2016 and called on others to do likewise. She also welcomed the designation of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and urged the Office for South-South Cooperation to ensure greater inter-agency synergy and resource efficiency in carrying out its mandate.

47. As the increasing economic dynamism of developing countries had boosted the role of South-South and triangular cooperation, her delegation reiterated the need for collective support from developed countries to further expand such activities. The Philippines would continue to provide technical assistance at all levels to its ASEAN neighbours and other developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, through its Technical Cooperation Council.

48. **Ms. Reguiera** (Cuba) said that the United Nations and its specialized agencies had an essential role to play in addressing development challenges and the consequences of the worldwide economic and financial crisis. The operational activities for development of the United Nations system were a vital component of sustainable development.

49. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review would be a good opportunity to reaffirm the principles that guided the activities of the United Nations development system at the country level, and to strengthen its intergovernmental nature and its strictly development-related objective. The system should be increasingly proactive in eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development, and more responsive to national strategies and priorities. The coordination of operational activities must ensure that all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes complied in a timely, inclusive and transparent manner with the guidelines established by their respective intergovernmental oversight bodies. Those guidelines must respect the principles of the voluntary acceptance and explicit consent of recipient States.

50. Developing countries must be decisive governance partners in the development system, as they were the best positioned to determine their assistance needs and priorities. The executive boards of funds and programmes must ensure respect for the principle of equitable geographic representation in their composition and decision-making mechanisms and guarantee the highest possible level of accountability to intergovernmental bodies. Efficient performance evaluation boosted the impact of operational activities on the ground and bolstered

respect and credibility. The keys to the success of operational activities for development were strict mandate compliance and respect for national sovereignty when determining assistance priorities.

51. Cuba reaffirmed the indivisible and universal nature of the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations system and operational activities should not be modelled on pre-established, "one-size-fits-all" formulas; they must be inclusive and non-discriminatory. Cuba welcomed the positive results achieved in strengthening the resident coordinator system; however, that process must remain voluntary, and take into account the specific mandates of funds and programmes.

52. Core resources were still the cornerstone of operational activities and were the only guarantee that the needs of host countries would be met. The growing imbalance between core and non-core resources must therefore be reversed. The focus on South-South cooperation was providing false justification for persistent failure by developed countries to fulfil their ODA commitments; such cooperation must be seen as a complement to, and not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. Development assistance was a central pillar and objective of the United Nations, as well as the most effective means to promote international peace and security, prevent conflict and achieve justice and equality. International development institutions should be able to draw on higher levels of predictable and non-conditional resources to promote socioeconomic development on a neutral basis, at the request of national Governments and with respect for national sovereignty.

53. *Ms. Nipomici (Republic of Moldova), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

54. **Mr. Sinha** (India) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should provide long-term strategic guidance to the United Nations development system as it continued to adapt to the changing development cooperation landscape. The universal applicability and longer-term vision of the 2030 Agenda had a number of policy implications for the development system which would require system-wide interlinkages, interoperability and synergy among agencies and with private actors. For India, the main pillars of the review would be strict adherence to the 2030 Agenda and an unrelenting resolve to eradicate poverty in all its forms, while avoiding the creation of an excessively complex system. Member States should be able to count on a coherent, effective and efficient system focused on the functions that it was uniquely qualified to deliver, based on solid intergovernmental guidance and supported with predictable, adequate and flexible resources. Development activities must be based on the fundamental principles of national ownership and leadership, including respect for national development priorities; programming activities therefore needed to be harmonized with the budgetary and planning activities of recipient Governments.

55. South-South cooperation must be viewed as a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation; the United Nations development system should facilitate South-South cooperation by channelling adequate resources and technology via its global, regional and country-level programmes. As South-South cooperation was an important aspect of its foreign policy, especially its engagement with developing partners, India had organized an international conference on the topic in March 2016. Other international meetings, such as that of the India-Africa Forum Summit and the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation, had highlighted his country's unique experience in nation-building, given its large, diverse and complex reality. In a spirit of solidarity, India was committed to sharing its experience and knowledge on South-South cooperation with other countries from the South with similar paths of socioeconomic development; it had launched a number of national initiatives to that end which directly reflected the spirit of the 2030 Agenda.

56. **Mr. Pisarevich** (Belarus) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review was of great importance in establishing concrete guidelines for the United Nations development system and laying the foundations for achieving the necessary medium- and long-term changes. It was vital to focus priority attention on financing the 2030 Agenda. His delegation welcomed the growing quantitative support for development processes by the United Nations system over the past decade, but was concerned about the trend in terms of quality. The growth of operational activities remained largely dependent on non-core resources, while the share of core resources as a percentage of operational activities remained

unchanged. That trend would hamper the ability of the development system to help Member States implement the 2030 Agenda, since non-core funding was an unpredictable and unreliable source of support for the processes of sustainable development.

57. His country believed that it was still relevant to develop the concept of a critical mass of core resources and welcomed the progress made by several United Nations agencies in 2015 in defining the general principles of that concept.

58. Although the largest share of resources for operational activities for development was allocated to the countries with the lowest incomes, it was important to bear in mind the need to support middle-income States, which accounted for two-thirds of the Organization's membership, and were experiencing specific development problems. In that regard, it was vital to develop an action plan within the United Nations system on cooperation with middle-income States, as had been strongly urged at international conferences over the preceding years. His delegation was convinced that stability and progress in middle-income countries would have a positive impact on the development process in lower-income States. It was important to develop cooperation between both groups of countries.

59. **Mr. Pinto Damiani** (Venezuela) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review must be aligned with the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in order to function as the primary mechanism for sustainable development and poverty eradication worldwide. Greater capacity must be built in developing countries to promote sustainable development at the national level. Likewise, the United Nations system must enhance transparency and effectiveness so that the available resources could be deployed more effectively and efficiently. Operational activities for development must be universal and voluntary and adapted to specific national development needs and priorities. The Sustainable Development Goals were a crucial tool for poverty eradication; it was therefore essential for the quadrennial review to reflect the problems faced by the most vulnerable countries.

60. Based on the values of solidarity, complementarity, justice and self-determination, South-South cooperation was important pillar of development, but could not in any way serve as a substitute for North-South cooperation and commitments. Over a decade earlier, his country had formed the PetroCaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement which facilitated access to oil through a new supply scheme that served in part to finance long-term development projects. His country had also participated in a number of other biregional forums. In that regard, it stressed the need to recognize the diversity of points of view in the region in order to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

61. Technology transfer and financing for development continued to be the primary obstacles to the industrialization of developing countries, which were often restricted to the role of suppliers of raw materials. His country called on the United Nations system, and in particular the development funds and programmes, to make greater efforts to promote South-South and triangular cooperation with a view to creating greater and better capacities.

62. **Mr. Kulikov** (Russian Federation) said that the central goal of the United Nations development system should continue to be to provide real assistance to countries' development. The promotion of sustainable development would ensure the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achievement of its ultimate goal, to ensure that no one was left behind. Direct support and service delivery should not be replaced by normative assistance in the area of monitoring and accountability. There were quite a few examples of substantial resources being wasted by the development system in the preparation of norms and guidelines, but when it came to taking real action, capacity was somehow nowhere to be found. Further forays by the development system into monitoring and consulting would lead only to diminished trust in it on the part of donors and recipients of assistance.

63. His country agreed that the proper functioning of the development system depended increasingly on financing, not so much because less money meant less activity but in terms of how the development system adapted to political and economic changes in donor countries. The Russian Federation had consistently

opposed the politicization of operational activities; in that regard, it supported strengthening the principle of the primacy of national leadership and responsibility for defining cooperation strategies with the development system. That position was linked with his delegation's position on the Delivering as One approach: despite the positive results obtained with respect to planning and reporting, it was premature to shift all development systems to that model.

64. The Russian Federation was not convinced that the transition to a targeted scale of voluntary contributions would be a panacea for addressing the problem of the decline in core resources. Instead, it would be better to employ so-called module financing, which allowed agencies to link some types of work to donors, depending on their financial capabilities and on their status as States, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, civil society and so forth.

65. His delegation supported the further strengthening of the staffing system of the United Nations development system. It was very important to improve the system for attracting highly qualified specialists from new donor countries as well as from countries that received assistance. The selection and appointment system should be more transparent and comprehensive.

66. **Mr. Mulet Lind** (Guatemala) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review was an important opportunity to establish the guidelines for future operational activities for development and to reform the United Nations development system to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, coordination, coherence and impact of development activities on the ground. The 2030 Agenda and other international agreements must be adapted to national development agendas. Guatemala was in process of harmonizing its national development plan with the Agenda. The funds, programmes and specialized agencies must adapt their plans, operations and budgets to the new development landscape, and the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda must be integrated into every entity of the United Nations development system in order to be able to address the particular needs of countries in special situations.

67. As a middle-income country, Guatemala was closely following the quadrennial review negotiations, especially regarding the structure of financing for development and the resident coordinator system. On the issues of core versus non-core resources and cost recovery, his delegation called for collective efforts to adopt a draft resolution that put forward concrete solutions to promote the development of all countries and peoples.

68. Development, peace, security and human rights were interlinked and mutually reinforcing. His country welcomed the adoption by consensus of a definition of sustainable peace and proposed that the text of the draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review recognize the concept of sustainable peace, since the consolidation of peace contributed to the strengthening of national institutions, good governance and the rule of law and the enjoyment of human rights. The concept of sustainable peace must be applied before, during and after any conflict, with the participation of all actors in society.

69. His delegation supported the view that South-South cooperation was not a substitute for, but a complement to, North-South cooperation. Guatemala urged all funds, programmes and specialized agencies to continue to work with countries to develop national capacities in order to maximize its impact.

70. *Mr. Díaz de la Guardia (Spain), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

71. **Mr. Lupan** (Republic of Moldova) said that the United Nations development system must adjust its functions, funding, organizational arrangements, capacity and partnership approaches to meet the challenges of the 2030 Agenda. To that end, his country supported the idea of mapping the development system's field presence as well as the mandates and functions of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds in order to avoid duplication or overlap of activities and achieve cost-effectiveness. While defining short-, medium- and long-term priorities for the development system, the changing development context as well as the interconnectedness of development activities and challenges must be considered. The development system must Deliver as One at all levels, global, regional and local, while placing particular emphasis on alignment with national needs and priorities and bridging the gap between development, human rights and peace and security

activities. Stronger coordination, collaboration and programmatic integration were of critical importance.

72. The draft resolution on the quadrennial review should set out a clear vision of the development system's mandate and means of delivery; it must also address the issues of management, accountability and transparency. Predictable, sustainable and flexible funding was of critical importance. Enhancing transparency and accountability on funding flows was an essential step to build trust and subsequently to incentivize donors to provide core and core-like resources, thereby reversing current funding practices. Innovative financial modalities must also be explored to provide adequate funding to enable the development system to accomplish its mandate. The reform of the United Nations development system was a prerequisite for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

73. **Ms. Krisnamurthi** (Indonesia) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review came at a critical juncture, as the United Nations development system would be expected to operate at all levels within an increasingly complex and resource-limited environment, while recognizing the indivisible nature of the 2030 Agenda. Consequently, the United Nations must significantly improve its efforts to achieve coordination and coherence, in order to enable horizontal, cross-cutting and interlinked operational activities for development.

74. The primary function of operational activities for development was to build national and subnational capacity in order to strengthen country ownership of the sustainable development process. The system must therefore be context-specific, with individual approaches tailored to the different needs and capacities of each country. Adequate and sustainable funding was essential, and innovative financing approaches should be explored to address the need to rebalance core and non-core funding. The development system must remain impartial, independent and transparent in all aspects of operational activities, as well as being aligned with national priorities and policies.

75. Indonesia valued South-South cooperation as a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. South-South and triangular cooperation offered developing countries a variety of resources that could be adapted to national circumstances, rather than a "one-size-fits-all" template for development. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation offered a viable and unique global forum for the exchange of South-South knowledge and experiences. The United Nations system should intensify its cooperation and support in areas where South-South and triangular cooperation had proven effective, including policy coordination, regional integration, interregional linkages, infrastructure interconnectivity and the development of national productive capacities through knowledge exchange and technological innovation.

76. *Ms. Nipomici (Moldova), Vice-Chair, took the chair.*

77. **Ms. Fladby** (Norway) said that her delegation supported the Secretary-General's recommendations on changing the structure of the draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review so as to make it an instrument for change, starting with what the United Nations development system should be doing, and then attempting to agree on drivers for change. A step-by-step approach would be a realistic path to follow.

78. Her delegation agreed in general with the functions of the United Nations development system outlined in the Secretary-General's report, but noted that the task of contributing to prevention and resilience was missing. The United Nations development system needed to adopt differentiated modes of engagement, depending on the country context, in order to ensure that efforts and resources were concentrated where the needs were greatest. Direct support and service delivery should be reserved for the least developed countries and other countries with special needs.

79. Core resources remained crucial, especially for normative functions and policy advice in host countries; efforts should be made to improve burden sharing and to ensure full cost recovery. At the same time, more "core-like" funding modalities should be employed, in particular inter-agency funding modalities.

80. In accordance with the Delivering as One approach, the United Nations Development Group standard operating procedures and mandatory business operations strategies should be fully implemented in all countries. That goal would be facilitated by

harmonized planning periods among all agencies and full acceptance of the principle of mutual recognition of each other's procedures and business practices. It was important to work towards common strategic frameworks according to the principle of one country — one United Nations framework, based on common analyses of the root causes of poverty, vulnerability and conflict. The draft resolution should stress the need for enhanced and more systematic collaboration with the World Bank and other multilateral financial institutions, which was particularly important in the context of fragile countries.

81. Her delegation believed that the role of United Nations resident coordinator should be separated from the role of the United Nations Development Programme resident representative in order to allow resident coordinators the independence and authority to respond to the needs and priorities of host countries. Minimum requirements for common resource mobilization under the leadership of the resident coordinator needed to be defined, as well as sufficient capacity at the resident coordinator's office.

82. She expressed support for the Secretary-General's recommendations on integrating human rights and gender equality into all aspects of the work of the United Nations development system, as prerequisities for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

83. **Mr. Meza-Cuadra** (Peru) said that coherent and integrated support from the United Nations system was key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the 2030 Agenda at the local, regional and global levels. Consensus had emerged in various areas during dialogues with the Economic and Social Council.

84. Firstly, the Sustainable Development Goals were indivisible. There had to be an end to work in silos at all levels. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review should therefore be a process in which development was perceived as sustainable development for which the eradication of poverty was a prerequisite; integration, meaning the identification of interlinkages and synergies, was also essential. The role of the Under-Secretary General for sustainable development should therefore be strengthened and sustainable development should be mainstreamed into the system.

85. Secondly, a bottom-up approach was needed to ensure that participation went from the local to the global levels. The legitimacy and effectiveness of the 2030 Agenda was dependent on its implementation, follow-up and monitoring. A new generation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks might even be more important than the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, although the latter should guide the system to ensure that the people took ownership of the 2030 Agenda at the national and local levels, as that was the only way for the system to provide support tailored to national circumstances and priorities. Delivering as One should be the basis for the new generation of Development Assistance Frameworks, which should in turn strengthen inclusive institutions bringing together all stakeholders to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

86. Thirdly, the system needed to be accountable for its support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Information on operational activities should be readily accessible and used not only to monitor State entities but also to raise peoples' awareness of processes that ultimately needed to meet their needs. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review should therefore be less bureaucratic and have clear mandates and guiding principles that identified the functions and responsibilities of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies and their respective governance structures.

87. Fourthly, the regional economic commissions could act as catalysts for integrated responses from the system to the needs of countries in their respective regional contexts. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was a model of best practices in that regard. The regional coordination mechanisms of specialized agencies, funds and programmes would be key to supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and ensuring global accountability within the framework of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

88. **Mr. Wu** Haitao (China) said that the United Nations development system needed to strengthen coordination among its institutions. The objectives of operational activities for development should be clearly defined, and concrete actions should be taken. During the consultations on the quadrennial

comprehensive policy review, both the current situation and the future should be taken into account, with priority given to such fundamental issues as poverty elimination, response to natural disasters, climate change and public health, so as to ensure the effectiveness of development activities.

89. Second, the international community s must adhere to the principles of national ownership and leadership. It was clearly stated in the 2030 Agenda that every State had the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development; national sovereignty was therefore critical to sustainable development. United Nations development activities should be universal, voluntary, neutral and multilateral; the rights of recipient countries should be respected, and programmes should be aligned with national conditions and requirements.

90. Third, given the difficulty of achieving economic growth, improving livelihoods and eliminating poverty, development activities should help developing countries to build their capacities. In particular, support to the African, least developed, landlocked developing and small island developing States should be increased, and a focus should be placed on the imbalance of the development of middle-income countries.

91. Fourth, global development partnerships should be strengthened, and ample resources as well as fair and appropriate resource structures should serve as guarantees for development activities. Guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, the international community should insist on North-South cooperation as the main channel for development cooperation. Developed countries should fulfil their ODA commitments, increase core resource contributions, and increase the flexibility of non-core resources. Developing countries should deepen South-South cooperation and give full effect to its role as a supplement to North-South cooperation.

92. Fifth, reform of the United Nations development system should be advanced in a steady and progressive manner. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda imposed greater demands on the system, which should make use of its comparative advantage to better adapt to the new situation as well as strengthen coordination and cooperation among institutions.

93. China was a developing country with a population of 1.3 billion; it had already incorporated the specific targets of the 2030 Agenda into its national development plans, and was currently taking action to lift 50 million people out of poverty. China held the Presidency of the Group of 20 in 2016 and had promoted a development focus, as well as an action plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It would continue to support the United Nations activities for development and would provide as much assistance as possible to other developing countries under the South-South cooperation framework.

94. **Ms. Lee** Ning Sun (Singapore) said that the 2030 Agenda called for re-tooling economies and societies. Estimates of the cost of implementing the Agenda were in the trillions of dollars, which would require an integrated approach based on multiple sources that engaged multiple stakeholders. Renewed commitment and intensified international cooperation was therefore needed from everyone concerned. For the least developed countries and small island developing States in particular, ODA remained an important pillar of development financing. However, public finance would have to be leveraged to mobilize private-sector engagement, and South-South cooperation also had a role to play.

95. Her country had been making efforts to ensure that economic development was accompanied by social progress and environmental protection ever since gaining its independence in 1965, long before environmental sustainability became fashionable and climate change became a global issue. Singapore was committed to paying forward the technical assistance it had received from developed countries, fellow developing countries and international organizations when it was a young country. Its own experience had shown that targeted technical assistance could be a powerful catalyst for development.

96. The Singapore Cooperation Programme, now in its twenty-fifth year, was providing training to over 100,000 officials from other developing countries. Her Government was now working with various United Nations agencies to support efforts by developing countries to implement the 2030 Agenda. It had also tailored training programmes for small island developing States in areas including sustainable development, climate change and public governance.

In conjunction with Google Singapore, her Government had just hosted the first instalment of a programme on "Technology, the Future Economy and Southeast Asia". Its technical cooperation with other developing countries was based on the principle that human resources were vital and capacity-building through continuous consultations could deliver the best outcomes.

97. **Mr. Ben Mellouk** (Morocco) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should provide the necessary strategic guidelines to enable the various components of the development system to implement the 2030 Agenda and support the policies and strategies of Member States. United Nations operational activities for development should take several priorities into consideration. Combating poverty must remain the top priority, as a cross-cutting objective on which the achievement of the other Sustainable Development Goals depended. The activities of the United Nations development bodies must be aligned with the national priorities of the beneficiary countries in order to be effective. Each country had its own particular needs and its own way of interpreting the 2030 Agenda. The creation and strengthening of national capacities must remain a strategic goal of development partners, both at the level of policy formulation and planning and in the context of implementation, follow-up and assessment. The strengthening of national statistical capacities was also particularly important.

98. Coherence in the efforts of United Nations agencies to assist developing countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda was crucial. His delegation called on those agencies to collaborate and coordinate with one another to improve the efficiency and impact of their work on the ground. It was of paramount importance to ensure flexibility and transparency in the interactions of the agencies with their Government partners at the national level in the context of the Delivering as One initiative, which must remain voluntary . Each United Nations agency or institution had its own mandate, comparative advantages, and mechanisms of governance, and it was up to each country to determine its modes of interaction with the various components of the country team in implementing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

99. The disparity between core and non-core resources must be rectified so that sufficient, predictable and multi-year resources could be made available to the development system and enable it to perform its functions.

100. South-South and triangular cooperation should be prioritized, in view of their great potential in the areas of capacity-building, transfer of technology and knowledge, trade and investment, growth and employment. South-South cooperation was an important part of his country's foreign policy, and his delegation encouraged the various entities of the United Nations system to make more efforts in that regard. The United Nations system was well-positioned to facilitate increased opportunities for South-South and triangular cooperation, and Morocco was prepared to participate in that endeavour by means of its relevant initiatives and long-lasting partnerships emphasizing human development and investment in productive sectors. His country regarded regional and subregional integration as a strategic priority, and had long supported market access and exemption from import duties for the least developed countries in Africa, a policy which had contributed to the strong growth of commercial transactions between Morocco and its partners in the South.

101. **Mr Sobral Duarte** (Brazil) said that the quadrennial comprehensive policy review presented a crucial opportunity for the General Assembly to provide policy orientation for the United Nations development system. The draft resolution should reaffirm and strengthen the principles and main features of the United Nations operational activities for development, most notably, national ownership of developing countries over their development processes; set the tone and vision for the next 14 years, guiding the adaptation of the United Nations development system to better support implementation of the 2030 Agenda, building on what was working properly, filling gaps and reducing overlaps; and provide clear and action-oriented mandates for the coming four years, addressing the main challenges and opportunities faced by the United Nations development system. The common goal should be to enhance the system's contribution to development outcomes at the global, regional and national levels and make its functioning more coherent, its governance more effective and accountable and its funding sufficient and

more predictable. Those mandates should be accompanied by a clear follow-up process enabling Member States and the system to identify and address challenges that could arise during implementation. All that could be done in a resolution that was strong, clear and more concise than General Assembly resolution 67/226. During negotiations, the operational activities for development of the United Nations, which were the scope and focus of the resolution, must be central.

102. The focus on operational activities meant that it was not necessary, during the current process, for the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to detail thematic priorities. Those priorities were dealt with by the Agenda itself, and by each national Government, through their country programme documents and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. The United Nations development system should not select favourites among the indivisible and equally important Sustainable Development Goals. Thematic priorities would be discussed further when the next cycle of strategic plans for funds, programmes and agencies was prepared. The central objective would therefore be to work cross-sectorally across the three dimensions of sustainable development as well as across the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. A crucial feature of the exercise was the universality of the 2030 Agenda, which altered the traditional relationship between donors and recipients. Agencies and funds must adapt to that reality.

103. Finally, the United Nations development system should be flexible enough to address national challenges in different contexts, with developing countries receiving priority, especially the most vulnerable among them. The demand-driven approach was crucial in that regard, and that approach was also the most appropriate for system support to South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives. System-wide coordination, with greater engagement with national focal points, was crucial. Actions, including the definition of criteria and parameters, should be planned and implemented with the leadership of developing countries.

104. **Ms. Flores Herrera** (Panama) said that to transform the development landscape, a system was needed whose parts worked in harmony. That called for a renewed focus on Delivering as One and on actions that maximized benefits. A coherent and transparent system was necessary to guarantee closer integration of policies in relation to the three pillars of the Charter of the United Nations: development, human rights, and peace and security.

105. There was no single approach that worked for all. Harmonizing United Nations processes continued to be important to prevent duplication and reduce transaction costs. Operational activities must be flexible, responding to the needs of developing countries, and must be carried out at the request of recipient countries, in line with their own development strategies and priorities.

106. Insufficient support for middle-income countries was a challenge, as those countries faced diverse difficulties. In line with paragraph 129 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and paragraph 48 of the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations development system must go beyond traditional classification of countries based solely on income and devise a new method that reflected the multidimensional nature of poverty and development.

107. Development cooperation was essential for implementing the 2030 Agenda in all countries. Increased poverty and inequality, rapid globalization and the growing need for a global approach to problems, and the emergence of new development actors and mechanisms, had a deep impact on development cooperation. South-South cooperation played an increasingly complementary role as compared to North-South cooperation. It should not be a substitute, but should rather contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda. It would remain pivotal for finding innovative solutions and was a tool for exchange of best practices among developing countries. Efforts in the area of South-South cooperation must be intensified in order to maximize benefits in such areas as national capacity-building, statistics and standard-setting. In that regard, her delegation welcomed the appointment of a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and believed that the role should be strengthened.

108. **Mr. Batti** (Pakistan) said that the support of the United Nations development system to developing countries, in line with national policies, priorities and needs, would be critical to achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The range of issues covered by the Agenda

and their universal nature required significant recalibration of the United Nations development system in its organizational, institutional, functional, financial and operational aspects. Willingness to change on the part of the United Nations development system would be critical, as would the realization that the process was not starting from scratch and that it was necessary to build on successes already achieved, lessons learned and anticipated challenges. In that regard, the Economic and Social Council dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system had been very helpful, particularly the inputs from the Independent Team of Advisors.

109. Pakistan supported a strong, focused and operational draft resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. However, brevity should not result in critical details being left out. The reformed United Nations development system must maintain a development focus and ensure strong engagement and sufficient flexibility to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It should mainstream and prioritize the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels, so that it could respond to developing countries' needs and priorities under national ownership and leadership, taking into account the expanded scope of the 2030 Agenda.

110. It was extremely important to address fragmentation and overlaps in governance at all levels in order to ensure transparency, accountability and responsiveness to Member States. The role of the Economic and Social Council must be strengthened to guide the United Nations development system and ensure effective implementation of the resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review. It would also be worthwhile to explore linkages between the Chief Executive Board of Coordination and its High-level Committees, on the one hand, and the Economic and Social Council, on the other.

111. The deteriorating core resources of the United Nations development system and increased reliance on non-core resources remained a matter of serious concern that must be addressed comprehensively with tangible measures in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

112. At the country level, the United Nations development system should seek to complement national efforts for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The programmatic activities of the United Nations must be consistent with national programmatic activities and development priorities. The recalibrated system should strengthen national capacities and use of national execution mechanisms and local expertise in the implementation of its operational activities. It was important to strengthen the role and functions of the resident coordinator system, including its accountability to national Governments for agreed results. Competition for resources remained a major challenge to integrated delivery and must be addressed, in order to strengthen the resident coordinator system at the national level.

113. A new dynamism in South-South collaborative efforts and initiatives had greatly increased the scope for cooperation among countries of the South. However, that cooperation must continue to be guided by the agreed principles, including respect for national sovereignty and ownership. With increased support for South-South cooperation from the United Nations development system, as well as enhanced commitments on the part of development partners, it would be possible to unlock the potential of the South to ensure sustained, inclusive and equitable global development.

114. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia) said that the rapidly changing global development landscape and the transformative and ambitious Sustainable Development Goals demanded a reformed United Nations development system. The system's core functions should be aligned with the Goals so as to deliver demand-driven results at the country level, anchored in national ownership and leadership. The existing funding architecture should also be improved by ensuring adequate and predictable funding. It was therefore imperative to broaden the donor base to support the core functions of the system and address the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources.

115. The United Nations development system should improve its governance mechanism to ensure system-wide transparency and accountability in order to provide effective support to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries. That would enhance financial and management effectiveness and strengthen coordination and coherence, and would also enable the United Nations development system to better respond to national development priorities.

116. The 2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review and the negotiations should aim to provide concrete solutions so that the United Nations development system would have greater impact on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and other recently adopted development frameworks. The United Nations development system should also reflect the concerns and aspirations of the least developed countries, as they were given special attention in those global frameworks.

117. His Government had worked to eradicate extreme poverty, and through comprehensive national development policies it had succeeded in halving the poverty rate and achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations development system had been one of its top development partners, providing assistance aligned with national priorities. The current United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the period 2016-2020 took into account the second national five-year growth and transformation plan for the same period. By avoiding duplication of effort and optimising the use of financial and human resources, the Delivering as One approach had also resulted in significant progress.

118. The United Nations should strengthen the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, and that should be complemented through fulfilment of ODA commitments and the strengthening of South-South cooperation.

119. **Ms. Simonyan** (Armenia) said that despite a decrease in extreme poverty levels worldwide, inequalities continued to grow. Discussion on the upcoming quadrennial comprehensive policy review would be instrumental in helping to formulate a better response to the needs and priorities of developing countries and ensuring progress on sustainable development that would go beyond income criteria. That issue was particularly relevant to the needs of the middle-income countries.

120. The recent unprecedented rise in humanitarian emergencies consumed significant resources. The objectives of compatibility, coordination and non-duplication of efforts within different, internationally recognized and supported formats of crisis response were as important as ever. Advancing its conceptual, normative and operational capacity to strengthen and adapt the prevention function and build greater resilience was a priority for the United Nations system.

121. Her delegation looked forward to discussions that would address system-wide issues such as inter-agency coherence and coordination, transparency and accountability, while maintaining the level of detail and expertise across the system's multiple sectors. Through its membership in the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services, her Government had advocated for enhanced dialogue among those agencies. Under the Armenian Presidency of the Executive Board during the current year, open and active communication on the 2030 Agenda and related matters had been promoted, including through the first joint dialogue, "Advancing the Humanitarian Development Nexus in the Context of the 2030 Agenda."

122. Development was very much a local matter. Globalization of a development agenda did not necessarily lead to greater, faster or more inclusive growth at the national level. While the Sustainable Development Goals represented a global policy framework, it was national Governments that drove the development and reform agenda. Discussions of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review should focus on the most effective ways of bringing change at the local level, including through an improved and consolidated field presence and flexibility that allowed for country-specific needs.

123. Funding remained a key priority. It was widely recognized that external resources for development cooperation in middle-income countries were decreasing. It would be critical to mobilize and strengthen the focus on quality and tangible, results-oriented programming to target those most in need, regardless of geography, in line with the principle of leaving no one behind.

124. **Ms. Arrieta Munguia** (Mexico) said that the agencies and programmes of the United Nations development system must align themselves with the 2030 Agenda and move away from the existing bureaucratic system. Activities must be implemented more efficiently and there should be full accountability so that the Agenda could be truly global and transformative. The universal and indivisible nature of

the Agenda must be upheld, and the silos, duplications and isolated efforts that had prevailed thus far must be avoided.

125. Far-reaching changes must be made in order to expand the concept of development to include sustainable development and support peace and human rights, bringing together all actors at the global, regional and national levels. The quadrennial comprehensive policy review should add sustainability to its mandate and ensure the transition from "the future we want" to "the United Nations we need", both at the central level and in the field, in order to contribute effectively to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

126. At the central level, her delegation recognized the need for a strengthened body for management and coordination of the development system, but believed that, before creating a new governance structure, existing structures should be reformed first, by merging or eliminating redundant structures and strengthening others. Specialized agencies must be included in that process, so that true change could occur in the short and medium term and fragmentation of development efforts and programmes could be avoided.

127. The 24 entities of the system must work together through all of their 1,400 offices in 180 countries in line with the principle of delivering as one, in order to transition towards the principle of operating as one; they should share premises and country programmes and pursue integrated policies ensuring the provision of joint services. Resident coordinators could not be leaders and at the same time compete for resources, and must maintain a close dialogue with the country teams. Accountability and transparency were indispensable for building confidence in the system and a greater sense of ownership among beneficiaries.

128. The United Nations should promote a more integrated system of international development cooperation and encourage Member States to take advantage of modalities such as South-South and triangular cooperation; that would help to leverage more resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, reduce inequalities between and within countries and avoid one-size-fits-all formulas. In order to leave no one behind, it was important for development cooperation to be effective and predictable, based on such models as the Global Partnership for Effective Development.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*